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THE TIMES

No. 65,899

MONDAY MAY 26 1997

TODAY
10p

NATIONAL TRUST
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50 YEARS OF GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME
The top ten questions
PAGE 5

15 PAGES OF SPORT
ENGLAND'S NEW HERO
Ben Hollioake humbles Australia
PAGE 23

TODAY
10p

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY
ARTS: Melvyn Bragg on art and nature

SCIENCE:
The psyche of car drivers

TOMORROW
GOLF: Winner of the Volvo PGA

WEDNESDAY
ARTS: David Cronenberg defends his controversial film *Crash*

CRICKET:
Reports on all the Benson and Hedges Cup matches

THURSDAY
BEST FOR FILMS: Geoff Brown on Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman's new film *Absolute Power*

BEST FOR BOOKS: Naomi Wolf on a century of women

SATURDAY
MAGAZINE: How to stop commuting and work from home

PLUS: WEEKEND CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY AND FULL TV GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Blair will have more talks with Thatcher

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will hold further consultations with Baroness Thatcher after the success of their first lengthy political discussion, it was disclosed last night.

As the Prime Minister prepares for a round of summit conferences, including meetings this week with President Yeltsin and President Clinton, senior aides said that he had struck up a good personal rapport during a wide-ranging one-hour chat with Lady Thatcher in Downing Street's White Room.

One said: "She has a remarkable experience of world affairs and is someone worth listening to. She has a mind worth picking and he wants to see her again."

The disclosure of their meeting — praised by Conservative and Labour MPs, as well as the former Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff — came as it was confirmed yesterday that Mr Clinton is to spend six hours with Mr Blair in London on Thursday.

The trip has been extended at the President's request. He is to be accorded the rare honour of addressing a full meeting of Mr Blair's Cabinet, after which they will hold talks covering Europe, world affairs, Bosnia and then Northern Ireland.

They may attend other functions together in London in the afternoon. Cherie Blair and Hillary Clinton will also meet for the first time.

Mr Blair has long admired Lady Thatcher's decisive leadership. His decision to consult her will be seen as further evidence of his presidential style. In America it is routine for serving Presidents to consult their predecessors in office. Mr Blair has already called on John Major's experience, talking to him the night before he delivered his speech in Belfast trying to unlock the logjam of the Northern Ireland peace process.

The meeting with Lady Thatcher took place on Thursday at 6 pm, on the eve of Mr Blair's first appearance on the European stage at the Noordwijk summit in The Netherlands last Friday.

The timing was coincidental. Mr Blair had met Lady Thatcher at a function when he was Leader of the Opposition and invited her to come to see him if he won. Soon after the election Downing Street contacted her office and the meet-

ing was set up. Both sides accepted that news of the meeting would emerge and Lady Thatcher was driven through the main Downing Street gates to her former home. She and Mr Blair spoke about Europe, the transatlantic relationship, Russia and Hong Kong.

Friends of Lady Thatcher said that she was glad to have been asked for her advice, and revealed that she had also been well-disposed towards Mr Blair because of his courtesy towards her. "They wanted a tête-à-tête and that is what they will have in future," sources revealed.

Mr Blair is ready to seek advice from all quarters on his foreign policy. He has a busy period ahead, including attending a Nato-Russia summit in Paris tomorrow, and the Amsterdam and the Group of Seven economic summits next month.

Mr Clinton appears to be as eager about Thursday's meeting as Mr Blair. He has told aides that he wants to have "some fun" in London and is expected to become a tourist in the afternoon. Mr Clinton was the first world leader to congratulate Mr Blair on his election victory.

Lord Callaghan said yesterday the meeting was a good idea. He had had a substantial conversation with Mr Major on international and domestic affairs shortly after Mr Major became Prime Minister.

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said Mr Blair's meeting with Lady Thatcher would send a tough message to Europe. "I think probably Tony Blair means the other European prime ministers and presidents to get the message and the message is, whereas he wants to be very positive and European and not be isolated, there will be the occasional swing of the handbag," he said on BBC Radio 4.

Gerald Howarth, a former parliamentary private secretary to Lady Thatcher and now Tory MP for Aldershot, said on *The World This Week*: "If the Prime Minister has decided to take advantage of the experience and advice available from Lady Thatcher, all I can say to that is three cheers."

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Pregnant Lynne Kelly strolling in Edinburgh yesterday with her 18-month-old daughter, Hazel. Her husband, James, hopes the House of Lords will force her to give birth to his child although she wants an abortion. Page 3

Saudi judge urges 'blood money' deal for nurses

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JOANNA BALE

THE judge trying two British nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia yesterday made an impassioned appeal to the victim's family not to demand the death sentence. He gave the family three weeks to consider the court's request and adjourned the trial until mid-June.

Lawyers for the two nurses, Deborah Parry and Lucy McLaughlan, were delighted by the intervention, which has now raised hopes for clemency less than a week after they went on trial.

Salah Hejailan, one of the lawyers, said last night: "This is an excellent outcome. The women were in court and were extremely pleased. They are pleading their innocence and we are confident that they will get a fair trial."

The judge at al-Khobar Supreme Court broke with tradition and urged the brother of staff nurse Yvonne Gifford to "accept as a principle that it may be possible to reach a conciliatory settlement". According to Saudi law, that would mean accepting "blood money" from the accused's family instead of execution, which would be a minimum of about £10,000.

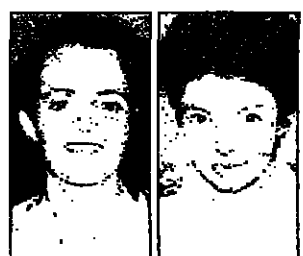
Mr Hejailan added: "The two nurses are refusing to ask for forgiveness because they are innocent. They are therefore not going to offer any kind of money. If the Gifford family persist with their demand for the death penalty this will not please the judge who cannot understand why they are asking for something that is not allowed in the Christian religion."

Defence lawyers believe that the evidence against the two women is flawed because it hinges on an alleged lesbian

relationship between them and Ms Gifford.

Mr Hejailan explained: "The lesbian aspect has been denied by the two nurses and the family of the deceased and this is consistent with the accounts of friends and associates, both inside and outside Saudi Arabia. If we succeed in establishing any doubt about the evidence then there will be no death penalty if the family persists with it. He can either set them free or imprison them for manslaughter."

While the judge emphasised that he had yet to consider the evidence, the Islamic court is concerned that passing the death penalty could strain



McLaughlan, left, and Parry: innocent plea

diplomatic relations with Britain to breaking point.

Aware that parts of the British media have portrayed the Saudi judicial system as barbaric, the judge declared: "This case is an appropriate occasion to acquaint the non-Muslim world with the basic characteristics of Sharia (Islamic) law in healing wounds and in ensuring fairness between disputing parties."

According to a statement released by the defence lawyers, the judge added that the procedure to be followed would be in accordance

Continued on page 2, col 3

Surprise lead for Left in French poll

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Left outstripped the ruling centre-right coalition in the first round of the parliamentary elections yesterday, bucking pollsters' predictions and raising the prospect of a hung parliament. In a stunning rebuke to President Chirac, who gambled on a snap election, and to the Government of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, the coalition was trailing, with 36.8 per cent, to 44 per cent for the combined Left, according to last night's exit polls. The National Front was set to make further electoral progress, with about 15 per cent of the vote.

The final result will be known after a run-off next Sunday between candidates with at least 12.5 per cent of the registered vote.

Voter apathy, page 11

England's cricketers go from zero to hero

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

ENGLAND'S cricketers, the subject of national derision when they lost a one-day series in Zimbabwe only five months ago, yesterday completed a remarkable clean sweep of the Tresco Trophy international series against Australia with a four-wicket victory at Lord's. They also unveiled a potential new hero and role model.

Just when the Australians had seen and heard quite enough of Adam Hollioake, who is making a habit of hitting the winning runs against them, England introduced them to his younger brother, Ben Hollioake, at 19 the youngest England cricketer for almost half a century, hit 63 from 48 balls on his debut and received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd.

The younger Hollioake, so new to top-class cricket that he had never even visited Lord's, made his runs with a series of clean,

uncomplicated blows matched by a sequence of dazzling grins. It all served to enrage the Australians, not least because both Hollioakes were born in Melbourne.

Adam Hollioake was named the England man of the series but he admitted of his brother's innings: "It was a bit embarrassing, having to follow that."

Mark Taylor, the beleaguered Australian captain, left himself out yesterday, fuelling speculation that he may stand down from the leadership if his form does not improve before the first of six Tests next week. Steve Waugh took over, leading a side that no longer seemed to believe they could win. The bookmakers, meanwhile, responded by cutting the odds against England winning the Ashes from 13-2 to 5-1.

England's hero, page 23

Iran euphoria over new President

The new President of Iran is a moderate churchman. His election victory over Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani could herald a turning point in the country's Islamic revolution.

Sayed Mohammad Khatami, a former Culture Minister, won nearly four times as many votes as his challenger. It is the biggest political upset since Ayatollah Khomeini ousted the pro-American Shah, and diplomats reported a mood of euphoric relief and incredulity at the scale of the triumph. Pages 13, 19

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TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44

LETTERS 19, 29
OBITUARIES 21
PETER RIDDELL 18

ARTS 16, 17
CHESS & BRIDGE 37
COURT & SOCIAL 20

BUSINESS 40, 42, 44
MIND & MATTER 14
LAW REPORT 39

Tougher A levels delayed in plan for wider curriculum

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TOUGHER A levels pushed through by the Conservative government are likely to be delayed by a year as new ministers pursue plans for a broader sixth-form curriculum which would lead to a British version of the baccalaureate.

Schools and colleges are already preparing for the revised A-level courses, which are due to begin in September. Ministers are, however, concerned that the biggest shake-up of the examination in 40 years will fail to deliver the sort of education they want.

Instead, they are working on a version of the French baccalaureate, which would become the basis of university entry. Students would be required to take a variety of subjects, rather than the three A-levels which are today's norm.

Vocational qualifications, which might include re-styled "applied A levels", would be on a par with academic courses in the new system. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, is determined to raise the status and standard of job-related courses to help boost the



Blunkett wants to widen curriculum

staying-on rate. The Conservative proposals, derived from Sir Ron Dearing's review of qualifications for the 16-19 age group, encourage sixth-formers to take a wider range of subjects to qualify for a new Advanced Diploma. Revised, one-year AS levels would enable students to embark on a range of subjects after GCSE before deciding which to convert into tougher A levels.

The Labour administration

fears that the diploma will be ignored by leading universities, and many sixth-formers will continue to specialise too narrowly. A new framework would require students to take both arts and science subjects, as well as a foreign language, and give them equal credit for vocational courses.

Initial proposals to reopen the debate on sixth-form qualifications met resistance from Downing Street, where officials are nervous of any suggestion that Labour is devaluing the "gold standard" of A level. But, with many schools already complaining that the timetable for introducing the new courses is too tight, a delay to allow further consultation seems acceptable.

Mr Blunkett said in a post-election interview: "Our task is to look at the curriculum and make it coherent so that there is a new rigour and momentum." Labour sources confirmed, yesterday, that he was still considering how to broaden A levels and make vocational qualifications more rigorous.

The Education Secretary may use a speech on Friday at the National Association of Head Teachers conference in Scarborough to sketch out his plans. A motion to be debated on Wednesday, reaffirming the union's existing policy, is close to Labour thinking.

The motion, drafted by the union's national council, calls for the Advanced Diploma to be developed into a "broader and more flexible 16-19 package, which would enable it to become a requirement for entry to higher education". It suggests a year's delay, while work continues on bringing together academic and vocational courses, giving schools time to prepare for the changes to A and AS level.

David Hart, the NAHT's general secretary said yesterday: "I certainly hope the Government is thinking along the lines we recommend because some of their predecessors' ideas are going to make things worse rather than better. I do not think that by moving to a compulsory broadening of the curriculum, bringing us into line with our more successful neighbours, there is any danger of watering down standards."

Education funding: Letters, page 18



Mohammed Sarwar, whose solicitor said that a key witness attested to his innocence

Sarwar's lawyer rejects new claim about cash handover

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FRESH claims about the Glasgow Govan MP Mohammed Sarwar's alleged attempt to bribe a rival election candidate have been denounced as defamatory by his solicitor.

Chris Kelly, for Mr Sarwar, claimed that a key witness quoted by the *News of the World* yesterday as being present at the cash handover had voiced his firm belief in Mr Sarwar's innocence.

Mr Sarwar, Britain's first Muslim MP, is being investigated by the Labour Party over allegations that he gave Badar Islam, an Independent Labour candidate, £5,000 to run a losing campaign. He is expected to face questioning this week. Fraud squad detectives are also investigating.

The *News of the World* alleged yesterday that Tariq Malik, Mr Islam's election agent, had witnessed the handover during a meeting held in Mr Sarwar's Mercedes. He was reported to have said that the moment he saw the carrier-bag of cash he knew it was "corrupt and illegal".

The newspaper also published transcripts of what it said was a taped conversation between Mr Sarwar and Mr Islam in which the MP urged his rival to manufacture evidence to smear other political opponents in Govan.

But yesterday Mr Kelly, flanked by Mr Sarwar, read out a statement in which he claimed to have a sworn

affidavit from Mr Malik where he denied making any of the statements attributed to him by the newspaper.

Mr Kelly went on to say that Mr Sarwar said he was present at the meetings between Mr Sarwar and Mr Islam. "He affirms his belief in Mr Sarwar's innocence."

Earlier this week Mr Sarwar claimed he had given Mr Islam the money as a loan and not as a bribe. He is suing the *News of the World*.

Yesterday the Labour Party said that the latest claims would be submitted to its own inquiry, which was set up by the National Executive Committee last Wednesday, and is expected to report within the next few weeks.

Clarke wins support in leadership fight

Kenneth Clarke's low-profile campaign for the Tory leadership received two important boosts yesterday. He was supported by Sir Bryan Nicholson, a former head of the CBI, who warned Tory MPs in a letter that choosing a right-wing leader would damage the party's relations with the business community. At the same time, friends of Michael Heseltine indicated that they expected him to announce his support for the former Chancellor — an old friend and close former Cabinet ally on Europe — but that he was determined to "choose the right moment" to do so.

With the first ballot only just over two weeks away, John Redwood yesterday issued what he called a "wake up" warning to the country over the new Treaty on Europe expected to be signed at Amsterdam next month. He said that he was now convinced that it was "the final blueprint for a new country and new government called Europe".

There is a widespread expectation that Mr Clarke will do well in the first and second ballots as the right-wing vote splits between Peter Lilley, Michael Howard, Mr Redwood and William Hague. It is also argued that Mr Clarke would then struggle in the final run-off if Tory rightwingers then fell in behind the leading candidate of the Right.

Economic confidence up

Economic confidence has jumped to its highest level for more than four years following the election, according to a MORI Financial Services survey of consumer attitudes (Peter Riddell writes).

MORI has calculated an index from questions asked each month about the economic optimism of the public, fear of redundancy among those in work and the number who say they are unemployed. The "mood of the nation" index has risen from 136 to 145 this month, continuing a sharp upward trend this year. This reflects increased confidence in the economy, greater personal security, and falling unemployment. The release of windfall payments to building society depositors might also play a part.

MP's father electrocuted

The father of a Conservative MP has been killed trying to save his dog from a garden pond that had become electrified. William Collins, 67, whose son Timothy is the MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, was found floating next to his golden retriever in the pond at his farm near Epping, Essex, on Saturday. His gardener pulled him from the water, but Mr Collins died on the way to hospital.

Coalition crisis meeting

Berrie Ahern, the Fianna Fail leader, held a crisis meeting in Dublin yesterday with his prospective coalition partner, Mary Harney of the Progressive Democrats, caused outrage within Fianna Fail last week by suggesting changes in benefit for single mothers and 25,000 public sector job cuts. An opinion poll yesterday showed the Fianna Fail/Progressive Democrats' lead down to four points.

Race warning ignored

Last month's Grand National was re-run in spite of police receiving an IRA bomb warning threatening the safety of spectators who were at Aintree, Merseyside Police said yesterday. Police were able to search the location named in the telephone call before the re-arranged race: there was no bomb. The authenticated telephone warning had not been made direct to Merseyside Police.

Flying Squad reprieved

Scotland Yard's Flying Squad has been reprieved and given the additional role of investigating commercial robberies. The Metropolitan Police squad, commonly known as the Sweeney and traditionally responsible for investigating serious armed robbery in London, was faced with the possibility of being cut under a review. No final decisions have been taken on the staffing levels or funding.

Bouncing bomb relic

A miniature dam, which helped Barnes Wallis to create his bouncing bomb during the Second World War, is threatened by developers at the Building Research Station at Garston, near Watford. Members of the Barnes Wallis Memorial Trust hope to move the dam, which is 3ft tall, 42ft long and 2ft wide at its base, to the Yorkshire Air Museum in Elvington, near York.

Climber killed in fall

An experienced woman climber died when scaling a rock face without safety ropes on a trip with friends. The woman, in her twenties, from London, who has not yet been named, may have struck the cliff face as she fell 200ft into the sea near Penzance, Cornwall, on Saturday evening. Three friends were near by but were not climbing with her. She was picked up 500yd out to sea by a Royal Navy helicopter.

Early change on pension rules for divorcees likely

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

EARLY legislation that could mean divorcees taking half of their former spouse's pension is being drawn up by the Government.

Ministers have decided to implement swiftly the pension-splitting proposals that were forced on the former Conservative government last year after rebel Tories lined up with Labour.

Earlier this year the Department of Social Security published a White Paper that would allow pensions to be split 50-50 on divorce — but it said that complex amendments to tax and

pensions legislation meant that it would be unlikely to happen before 2001.

The new Government has a crowded first legislative session, with up to 30 measures in the Queen's speech ten days ago. At its meeting last Thursday the Cabinet agreed to underline its commitment to seven more measures by deciding to publish draft Bills during the next few months. They include the pension-splitting measure, a Freedom of Information Bill, and proposals for a Food Standards Agency, promised in the wake of the BSE and E.coli scares.

The Bills will go out for full

consultation, a process aimed at speeding their passage when they are brought forward. Labour sources hope that if the Bill goes through in the 1998-99 session the changes can come into force earlier than expected.

More than 170,000 couples divorce each year. Under the Bill, pensions will effectively be regarded as another asset to be considered when it comes to a financial settlement between the two divorcing parties. But it will not be compulsory and the split does not have to be exactly 50-50.

The value of divorcing parties' pensions at the time the divorce is announced would be calculated by the pension scheme's provider. Di-

vorice courts would be able to order pension schemes to give divorcees their own separate pension rights from the assets built up by their partners. Courts must already trade pensions against other assets, such as the matrimonial home. But thousands of former spouses, mainly women, face difficulties in retirement when they are divorced with no pension rights of their own.

Gordon Brown has been forced to give up hopes of bringing in his first Budget as early as June 10. Sources close to the Chancellor accepted yesterday that the package would not be ready in time, although they denied that the delay had been

caused by difficulties over the windfall tax on the privatised utilities by which Mr Brown intends to raise up to £5 billion for his plan to take 250,000 youngsters off welfare and into work.

According to Treasury officials the proposals are ready to be unveiled, but they say that work is still proceeding on the National Audit Office assessment of public spending and that Mr Brown will want to see that before he makes his final judgments. Their remarks will increase speculation that Mr Brown is planning wider-ranging changes on tax than indicated in the run-up to the general election.

Judge urges 'blood money' deal

Continued from page 1

to the spirit and dictates of Islam which are relevant to settling cases and disputes between non-Muslims living in the Islamic world.

The victim's brother, Frank Gifford, an Australian taxi driver, has so far refused to show any compassion for the accused.

If convicted, the two nurses face public beatings. Both women, who have been arriving shackled at the court under heavy police guard, pleaded not guilty to killing Mr Gifford. Her body was found on December 11 on the floor of her flat in the King Fahd Military medical complex where all three lived and worked. She had

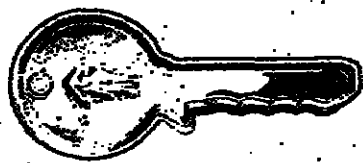
been stabbed, bludgeoned and suffocated.

The defendants say that Ms Gifford's credit cards were planted on them and that they were made to sign false confessions under duress from police interrogators who, they claim, stripped them naked, sexually harassed them and threatened to rape them. They retracted the admissions soon after being charged with murder but the Saudi prosecutor read them out when the trial opened.

Their lawyers yesterday presented 15 pages of legal submissions detailing complaints by the nurses that their alleged confessions had been made under "duress, misrepresentation and promises

of an early release". Ms Parry, 38, and Ms McLaughlin, 31, will present their own accounts of how their alleged confessions were obtained by Saudi interrogators at a later stage.

Michael Dark, one of their four lawyers, alleged their clothes were removed and they were made to stand naked for hours without sleep. "The police fondled their breasts and some men started to unzip their trousers, threatening to rape them." They were also lied to that if they confessed they would be released and repatriated because as Christians they were not subject to Saudi's Islamic law, Mr Dark said.



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Abortion row wife returns to parents

THE pregnant woman whose estranged husband is fighting to stop her having an abortion came out of hiding yesterday. Lynne Kelly, 21, took a stroll with her parents and her 18-month-old daughter, Hazel, after the family resolved to resume a normal life despite the legal action.

Mrs Kelly, who is 14 weeks pregnant, refused to answer questions and smiled shyly when asked how she felt. She fled to England last week but returned to her parents' home in Edinburgh late on Saturday.

The Scottish courts ruled against Mrs Kelly's husband, James, 28, last week but he hopes to persuade the House of Lords to force her to have his child.

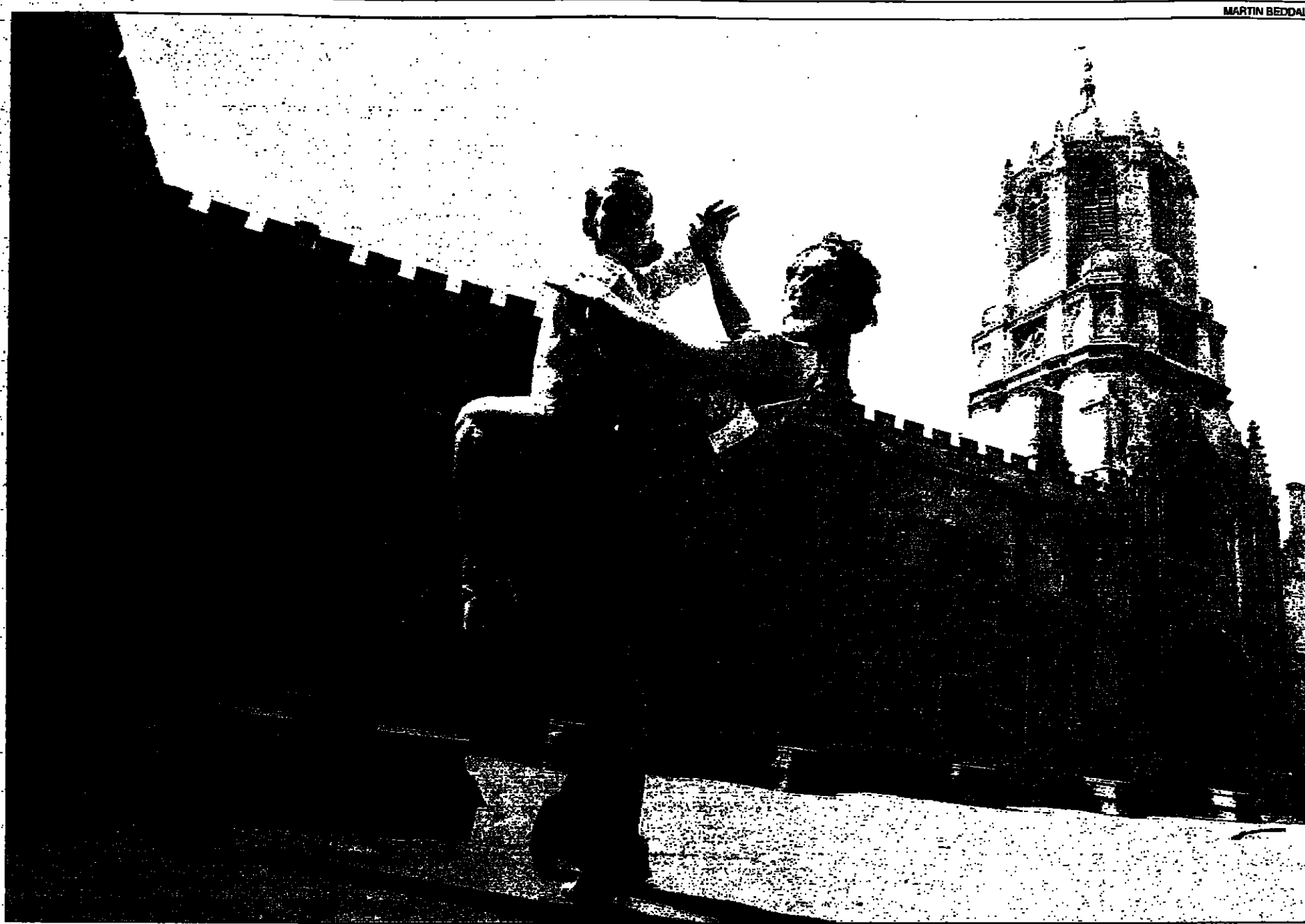
Mrs Kelly's father, John Falconer, said earlier yesterday that his daughter was "as well as can be expected", adding: "We have decided we are not going to run away and hide. Today my family will be going about their normal business. But no comment will be made by any of us."

Mr Falconer, 42, said that his grand-daughter, Hazel, was the main reason behind the decision to return to normality. "I have never been through anything like this before and I hope I never will again. In the fullness of time there will be a statement made but no comment at the moment."

Mrs Kelly sought a termination 11 days after anrimonious split from her husband several weeks before. The courts have been told that Mr Kelly was convicted of assaulting his wife and threw her out of their home.

She has won every stage in the legal battle so far. Four judges have upheld her right to have an abortion, but she still cannot go ahead with it legally. On Saturday Mr Kelly, a ruffian from Inverkeithing, 16, won the right to appeal to the House of Lords in an effort to stop his wife going ahead with the abortion.

Lord Cullen, sitting with Lords McCluskey and Wylie, refused to lift the abortion ban, until it was known whether the House of Lords would hear Mr Kelly's appeal. The Lords' decision may be made on Tuesday.



Sebastian Marcelin-Rice, who has become the first ballroom dancer in history to be awarded a full Blue, and his dancing partner, Jasna Ruzdijic, who is also expected to receive a Blue

Student wins first full Blue for dancing

Ruth Gledhill reports on a sporting triumph in the ballroom

A STUDENT at Oxford University has become the first ballroom dancer in history to be awarded a full Blue.

The award of a Blue to Sebastian Marcelin-Rice, 22, gives dancing a status comparable with traditional Blues sports such as rugby and rowing at a time that many still question its sporting credentials. The award also strengthens the case for dancing as an Olympic sport.

Although male dancers at Oxford qualify only for a half-Blue, Mr Marcelin-Rice, who is studying psychology and philosophy at Exeter College, has been awarded an extraordinary full-Blue because of his exceptional performance on the

dance floor in the recent Varsity match. Women at Oxford also qualify for full-Blues, but Mr Marcelin-Rice has been awarded the blue first simply because the Oxford men's blues committee met before the women's committee. His partner, Jasna Ruzdijic, 26, from Bosnia, who is studying mathematics at St Peter's, is also expected to be awarded a full-Blue.

Mr Marcelin-Rice did not begin dancing until he reached Oxford. Two years later, he and his partner won the South of England universities Latin American competition,

and this year won the national student contest. They travel the country to dance team-matches against other universities and won the five contest in the recent inter-continental student match near Weymouth.

Several Oxford students have done well at amateur level on the open circuit, where Mr Marcelin-Rice is already making a name for himself and his partner against couples, many of which have been dancing since the age of 12 or 13.

Mr Marcelin-Rice, who has also competed for his college rugby team,

said that the award was personally satisfying after the hours of work he had put in. "On a more general level it is an important turning-point in the way the world perceives dancing," he said. "Until now, the other sports have never really considered us a true sport at university. By awarding this Blue, they are saying we are on the same level as rugby, rowing and cricket."

Matthew Buck, spokesman for the Oxford team, said: "We are hoping this will set a precedent and we will be able to claim more blues in future. It shows the Blues commit-

tee is viewing dance sport in a completely different way."

Vicky Cunliffe, the teacher and adjudicator who coaches the Oxford Latin team, said: "Sebastian is a showman and a very good competitor. They work very hard and have done very well. Art and sport are not mutually exclusive and I believe dancing is an artistic sport. Like other sports, there is a lot of sweat. But it does not have to be all dirty and muddy to be a sport."

The award comes as more than 1,300 couples from 45 countries besides Britain take to the floor in the British Open Championships at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, this week.

Italy honours English hero who saved a wartime baby

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN SUIO, ITALY

ITALIANS paid tribute in style yesterday to a humble "Tommy", Ernie Foster, who at the age of 19 saved the life of a newborn baby in a mountain village under a bombardment of shells.

"We didn't expect all this," said his widow, Sylvia, wiping away tears under a scorching sun in the main square of Suio, a heat-drenched village between Naples and Rome. "My family is very, very proud. Ernie would have looked up and said, 'I don't know what they're doing all this for'. But I know he would have been especially proud."

Mrs Foster sat through a solemn open air Mass in the square and more than an hour of speeches from local notables paying tribute to the Hampshire Regiment private, although she admitted she did not understand very much of what they said. "As long as I didn't faint, that was the main thing," Mrs Foster said afterwards with relief. "It was all very moving, if only I could have understood the language."

She was talking about the tributes paid to her husband who, as a 19-year-old from Bedhampton, was scouting from an observation post in a

village, being pounded by German artillery in February 1944. Unwittingly, he became a hero recognised internationally only after his death in 1992.

"Jerry was throwing bits and pieces over and I was in an alleyway in a little village when I saw a woman running from one house to another dodging the fire," he recalled before he died. "She fell and I ran to her in the street. She died in my arms of severe chest wounds, and as her arms went limp a wrapped-up bundle of a baby boy rolled out of her grasp. He was bleeding from a shoulder and was hit in another couple of places, but he was yelling so I thought the nipper had a chance."

"I ran with him a quarter of a mile to a field ambulance, and I won't forget the look on that ambulance man's face when I plunked the baby in his arms."

The baby lived, and yesterday, aged 54, he thanked the British infantryman who saved his life. "He was an honest soldier with healthy ethics who saw me and took me in his arms," Alessandro Lefano told an emotional crowd of 500 people gathered



Sylvia Foster, Ernie's widow, with Alessandro Lefano, the man her husband saved as a baby

in the village square. "I was covered in blood but he was to become a second father for me, bringing so much joy and happiness."

Signor Lefano broke down and cried into the microphone. "Ernest came to me to stay in my home twice a year," Signor Lefano recalled. "I know he will not come to find me again. But I know he will always be with me as a second father."

The streets of the mountain village were decked with Union flags and Italian tricolours to pay tribute to Mr Foster. Lance Corporal Steve Cook, a 25-year-old bugler from the Royal Regiment of the Princess of Wales, played *Last Post*, bringing more tears to the eyes of Mrs Foster, as a wreath was laid in her husband's memory in the presence of an honour guard.

Girls in gaily coloured peasant costumes and grizzled Italian war veterans cheered and saluted as the British and Italian national anthems were played by a brass band from Castelforte. Church bells rang as the parish priest, wearing gold vestments, urged the crowd to pray for "our England brothers, for their nation and for their families, for justice, solidarity and peace."

Afterwards the farming families of Suio organised a street party in which their English guests, including scores of English tourists who had read about the occasion and arrived uninvited, were regaled with gifts of cheese, beans, lemons, oranges and the local strawberry wine.

Mrs Foster and the mayor of the village then unveiled a plaque naming the main piazza after "Ernest Foster, an English soldier who during the Second World War, with an heroic act, under grenades, on February 17, 1944, risking his own life, saved that of a child in the village of Suio."

As the plaque was unveiled, solemn police saluted and an Italian military march was played. The priest blessed the memorial, spraying holy water on the assembled crowd of soldiers, British Embassy officials and relatives of Mr Foster. "May this square become a place of love," the priest intoned.

"I only wish that Ernest could have been here to see this," Mrs Foster said, "many many thanks to you all, and God bless."



PIAZZA ERNEST FOSTER
SOLDATO INGLESE CHE DURANTE IL 2° CONFLITTO MONDIALE CON ATTO EROICO SOTTO LE GRANATE IL 17-02-1944 A RISCHIO DELLA PROPRIA VITA, SALVO QUELLA DI UN BAMBINO IN SUIO PAESE
L'AMMINISTRAZIONE COMUNALE



A picture of Ernest Foster taken during the war, and the plaque in his honour

Woman 'too old to buy on credit'

BY ALEXANDRA FREEN

A CONSUMER credit company told a 72-year-old widow that she could not buy furniture under a two-year hire-purchase agreement because she might die before the payments had been completed.

Catherine Gillespie arranged to buy a £1,000 three-piece suite from a furniture shop in Nottingham. Although the sale had been agreed, a salesman from the store later telephoned Mrs Gillespie to say that her request for interest-free credit had been turned down by the finance company, Chartered Trust.

Mrs Gillespie said: "I was absolutely furious. I am very fit and I do a lot of gardening and walking. I have no intention of dying in the next two years. There are eight million pensioners in the UK who contribute a great deal to our country. We should be allowed to buy things on credit if we want to," she said.

Age Concern accused Chartered Trust of "utter ageism". A spokeswoman said: "To make a decision like that on the basis of age alone is blatant discrimination. They should have looked at her ability to pay and then, if they were worried that something might happen to her, they should have looked at her family situation. If someone dies with outstanding debts, then their estate has to pay."

There is no official "cut-off" age for hire-purchase agreements and insurance policies, but there is nothing in the Consumer Credit Act that forbids lenders from discriminating on the basis of age.

After hearing of Mrs Gillespie's complaint, David Gow, executive director of Chartered Trust, apologised. "A member of staff at our local branch decided the lady did not qualify on age grounds. But that was a mistake on our part and she can have her three-piece suite on interest-free credit," he said.

Mr Gow conceded that elderly customers were often more reliable payers than younger people, because they had fewer financial commitments. Mrs Gillespie said she would buy her suite from another shop.

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هكذا عن الأصل



The Archbishop of Canterbury showing schoolchildren the ruins of the Abbey of St Augustine, where a £1 million English Heritage museum was opened yesterday

Carey welcomes the followers of St Augustine

BY GLEN OWEN

FIFTY pilgrims yesterday marked the 14th centenary of St Augustine's arrival in Britain by completing a journey from Rome in his footsteps.

The group, which included a nun, a student, a bishop and a chemist's shop assistant, were greeted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and Cardinal Basil Hume, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, as they ended their week-long journey at the saint's reputed landing place on Hugin Green, near Ramsgate, in Kent.

Today the pilgrims will join the churches' leaders and the Prince of Wales for a service at Canterbury Cathedral to mark St Augustine's feast day.

St Augustine, who was sent by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity in AD 597, took over a year to complete the 900-mile journey. His latter-day followers managed the Pilgrims' Way in seven days, using coaches and high-speed trains to dart between European centres of Christianity, such as Assisi and Reims, before reaching Kent.

The ecumenical group, made up of 47 Britons, two

Americans and one Frenchwoman, is predominantly Anglican, but includes Roman Catholics, Baptists and American Episcopalians. Twenty-two of them will be joined by 450 others to journey on to Londonderry to commemorate the 1,400th anniversary, on June 9, of the death of St Columba of Iona.

Dr Carey welcomed the travellers in a service for the pilgrims at the church of St Martin and St Paul. "As today, so in the time of Bertha, a congregation met faithfully here to bear witness to Christ in the midst of a population that had either never had or had largely lost touch with their Christian roots. But as today, too, so in the time of Augustine, people came from afar to this city to share their faith and to spread the good news of Christ."

A reception followed the opening of a £1 million English Heritage museum on the site of St Augustine's Abbey, built with the help of a £686,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. St Augustine founded the abbey as part of his mission.

Becket abbey, page 8

Grass loses greenness for radio show defectors

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE former panel of *Gardeners' Question Time*, which defected from the BBC to start a rival show on Classic FM, are searching for a sponsor to keep the programme from withering.

A substitute has yet to be found two months after the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society ended its three-year financial backing of *Classic Gardening Forum*.

The news comes in the week that Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time* prepares to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The hardy perennial will mark the occasion next Sunday by recording a roadshow from the heart of the National Forest.

Although Classic FM insists that its programme is not under threat — it has been running without a sponsor since March — officials say it is the most expensive show on the commercial station, costing £250,000 a year, and has to pay its way. A spokeswoman said: "We only have three ad breaks an hour and we find that sponsorship, a concept developed on television as with Cadbury's and Coronation Street, is a good method of funding."

"Unlike the BBC, which has the licence fee to keep it going, we have to fund ourselves. It is true that we do not have a

EXPERTS' QUESTIONS

The most commonly asked questions are:

How can I control my vine weevils?

How can I control slugs in the garden?

Why won't my wisteria flower?

How do I get rid of moles?

How can I get rid of honey fungus?

How do I banish moss from the lawn?

How can I have success with brassicas?

What are the best plants to attract wildlife and pondlife?

Can you name your favourite roses?

What are the best plants for North-facing walls and shady sites?

The most ludicrous questions include:

How can I grow a Chilean fire bush in Ireland?

How do you collect fish manure?

How can I stop frogs knocking over my water lilies?

What plants are suitable for a nudist colony?

Am I right or is my husband?

The tips of which the panel are proudest:

Bob Flowerdew: sharpen your hoe and use it often.

Anne Swinbank: look at your plants all the time and if you're short of time, get your seeds sown.

Geoffrey Smith: anyone moving into a new or established garden should spend a year studying the site before making any alterations.

Blue Peter elephant dies at 17 months

BY JOANNA BALE

THE elephant calf named Karha by viewers of *Blue Peter* died yesterday at Chester Zoo.

The 17-month-old female had been refusing to eat for several days and had been cared for by a team of specialist vets. It was only the second Asiatic elephant to be born and successfully reared in this country and had attracted thousands of visitors to the zoo.

Although the cause of death has not yet been established, Karha had been recovering from an operation to remove a stone from its oesophagus.

A zoo spokeswoman, Pat Kade, said: "All those who knew and worked with her are very upset. She was hand-reared from birth and her keepers had worked with her 24 hours a day from the day she was born. "She was extremely popular with visitors and she will be missed by us all."

Chris Vere, the zoo's marketing manager, said there was no evidence that Karha had died from an infectious illness which could affect other animals. "We became concerned last week because she was not eating and was not her usual lively self," he said.

Karha collapsed after being taken to Liverpool University's Leahurst Animal Hospital.

The elephant became famous when 143,000 viewers of the BBC children's programme voted to call it Karha, out of six names suggested by keepers. The name means "noble group of elephants".

Mr Vere added: "Karha's death does not diminish our commitment to a continuous and viable breeding programme for this endangered species. She was a wonderful ambassador for our work."

Aids victim denies she passed on HIV virus

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY IN LARNACA

THE family of Janette Pink say she is "devastated" by allegations made in court by her former lover that she passed on the Aids virus to another man.

Her fragile health has deteriorated after three days of often gruelling cross-examination about her private life as she confronted the Cyprus fisherman accused of negligently infecting her with HIV.

Her cousin, Sharon Keefe, has been at her side throughout what she called her "insidious and wicked" treatment in a Larnaca court by Pavlos Georgiou, who Mrs Pink dismisses as "a disgusting man with no morals".

Mrs Keefe said: "Jan was in such pain all the time in court but she was determined to stop this man hurting any more women. The girl is dying. She is slowly dying like a flower before our eyes."

Looking gaunt and exhausted, Mrs Pink, 45, who is divorced with two children, confessed yesterday she feared that her recent improvement in health would suffer and

that she faced further character assassination as the test case continued in her absence.

She was shaken by Mr Georgiou's assertion that she had infected a coach driver with the HIV virus and had sex with other men on the island, some of whom the defence intends to call as witnesses. "That was the worst lie of all," she told her cousin.

The allegation could result in Mrs Pink, from Basildon in Essex, facing prosecution under the same obscure 1957 law which is being tested in this hearing. Mr Georgiou's defence counsel, Tassos Economou, said yesterday: "In theory, if she wins this case, the same law could be used against her."

Mrs Pink admits she is not fit enough to attend the verdict, expected next month, and is unlikely ever to see Mr Georgiou again. "Being in court with him was much harder than I expected. I'm glad it is over but not sorry I did it," she said.

Mr Georgiou's twin brother, Petros, said yesterday that

he had been offered "many thousands of pounds" by a British television production company to play his brother. He did not say whether he would accept.

Pavlos Georgiou is considering suing medical staff in Nicosia who revealed he was HIV-infected. He will ask the court to stop his doctor revealing how Mr Georgiou knew he had Aids and was repeatedly lectured about the dangers of having unprotected sex.

His doctors have already suggested they know of other women on the island he has infected.

Yesterday, Mr Georgiou spent the day sailing with his four children, including Rafael, four, who is also infected. He said his own medical condition was deteriorating. "People forget I am in the shadow of death too," he said.

He believes he contracted HIV from a woman tourist. He shrugged when asked if he considered himself a womaniser. "I am a gentleman. Just because I have Aids it does not mean I am a bad man."



Janette Pink meeting Petros Georgiou, twin of her former lover. He claimed that a British television company had offered him money to portray his brother



From left: Eric Robson and Bob Flowerdew of Radio 4 and Stefan Buczacki and Sue Phillips of Classic FM

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Family study aims to identify genetic cause of depression

By ANJANA AHUJA

PSYCHIATRISTS are seeking 25,000 brothers and sisters in a hunt for the genes that control depression and anxiety. The project is thought to be the largest in the controversial field of psychiatric genetics.

Previous research has used families with medical histories of depression, with limited success. However, this latest exercise — which has been granted £40,000 by the Medical Research Council (MRC) — will scan the spectrum of human personality. David Fulker of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, who is heading the study, said: "We're not looking for clinically depressed people or those suffering schizophrenia or manic-depressive psychosis. This is more about general personality traits. We want relatively normal people who feel down in the mouth occa-

sionally." Participants will be found through a network of doctors' surgeries affiliated to the MRC.

In the first instance, 10,000 people will be given personality questionnaires — with questions such as, do you suffer from sleeplessness; do you feel lonely — to elicit whether they are mildly anxious or depressed. That first set of people is expected to have 15,000 siblings between them, who will undergo similar testing. The researchers will then select two broad sets of siblings — those who are very similar in outlook and those whose dispositions are poles apart. This will create a pool of about 800 sets of siblings who will be subjected to more detailed psychiatric interviews. Their DNA will also be analysed.

The main aim, Professor Fulker says, is to find an

"index of psychiatric vulnerability". The results could also help to create a new class of drugs for treating depression, which affects one in ten people at some time during their lives.

The three-year project will catapult Britain to the forefront of research in psychiatric genetics. Unlike America, Britain has shied away from funding such research, partly because of ethical concerns about the use of genetic information. As a result of a general change in attitude, the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatric Research Centre was founded at the Institute of Psychiatry, Professor Fulker, who left Britain to become one of the leading statistical geneticists in America, was lured back from the University of Colorado to help to direct research at the institute.



Alf Wight, better known as Yorkshire vet James Herriot, was beset by anxiety throughout his career

It needn't happen to a vet — or any elderly person

TWO biographies are being written about Alf Wight, better known as James Herriot, the Yorkshire vet and author. In his books Wight did not describe the anxiety caused in him by the life and death responsibility of being a vet, but he was always conscious that the death of a lonely widow's dog, or a valuable cow belonging to an impoverished farmer in the agricultural depression, would devastate their lives.

One of the biographies is being written by his son, Jimmy Wight. He is quoted as saying that his father had certainly been a severe worrier since his student days, and that in his private diaries he frequently berated his perceived lack of knowledge and wished that he could do more for his patients.

Feelings of professional or social inadequacy, low self-esteem together with anxieties about money, are common in depressed patients. The James Herriot books were not written until Wight was over 50 and up to that time the family had always been hard-pressed

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

financially. Wight suffered his first severe attack of depressive illness when he was nearly 50, at the time of his father's death. Many patients who become severely depressed in the second half of their life have shown evidence in the early years of trouble ahead. They may have been excessively anxious and unusually rigid in their lifestyles, with a hyper-consciousness and compassionate personality all too easily undermined by self-doubt and misplaced fears of incompetence.

As the depressive illness deepens in the older patient they, like younger sufferers, will also have the characteristic symptoms of hopelessness and loss of sense of pleasure in previously enjoyed activities, a vanishing appetite, weight loss, insomnia and, particularly, hypochondria.

The older depressive has morbid fears about death, financial security and, since there is a large component of anxiety in their condition, are unable to separate the truly worrying from the merely trying.

Contrary to popular belief, modern drugs mean depression in the elderly can usually be treated. As in all age groups there is a minority who are not helped by antidepressant drugs, but the majority respond either to the older preparations or the new 5HT reuptake inhibitors. Those drugs that also have anti-anxiety action are usually the ones preferred in treating the older depressive.

Trust opens first special unit for eating disorders

By RUSSELL JENKINS

WHAT is believed to be the first health service clinic in Britain dedicated to treating patients with eating disorders will open this week.

Recent figures suggest that between 60,000 and 200,000 people in this country suffer from either bulimia — the condition of binge-eating followed by vomiting, whose most well-known sufferer was Diana, Princess of Wales — or anorexia. As many as one in ten die, the Eating Disorders Association says.

High Meadow, a six-bed unit in Burnley, Lancashire, is designed to take highly stressed, young bulimic and anorexic sufferers out of the psychiatric wards of hospitals, where acute cases are routinely treated. It aims to provide a pleasantly decorated "home from home" with consultations available from dietitians, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists and psychiatrists, in what could become a model for future practice.

On hospital wards, sufferers could find themselves with the acutely psychotic, Dave Thornton, the unit manager, said. Their care could be affected as a result. "We are dealing with people who are distressed, with low body weight, low motivation and low self-esteem. Acute admission wards are not the best place to deal with complex and sensitive cases such as these."

The treatment is based on 15

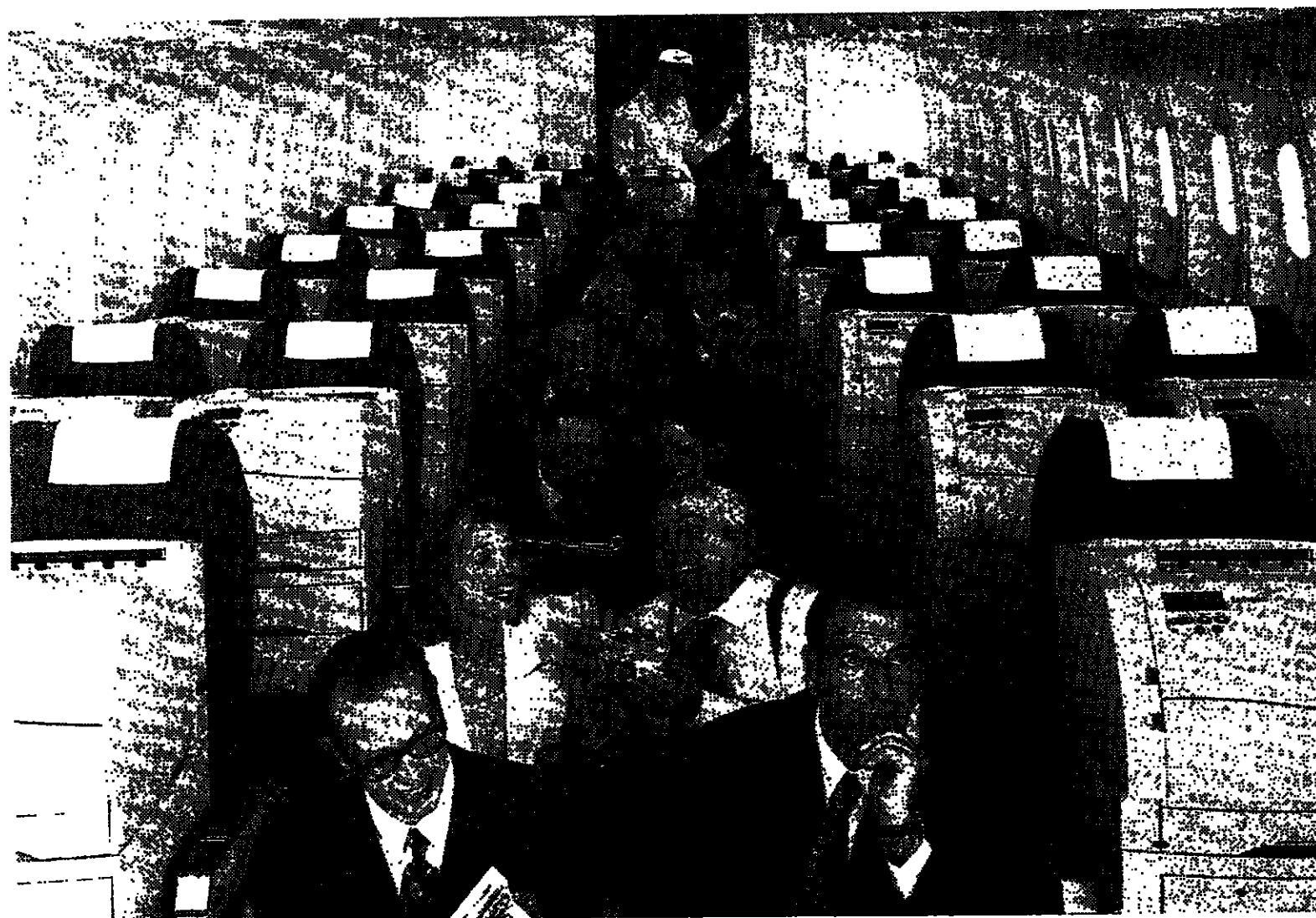
years of dealing with patients with eating disorders at the Burnley Health Care NHS Trust's Brierfield health centre. High Meadow will take patients, aged 16 to 65, from anywhere in the country. Mr Thornton is not sure what the demand will be because the unit is so novel.

Mike Launer, consultant psychiatrist and clinical director of the trust, promised a non-threatening and varied approach; the homely atmosphere would be an integral part. Each patient, referred directly by a GP, is expected to stay for up to three months. "It is important to treat not just the symptoms but also the associated body image and self-esteem," Dr Launer said.

Anorexia and bulimia are often tied into other psychological problems, such as phobias, depression and alcohol abuse.

David Chew, chief executive of the trust, said: "The availability of a purpose-built facility will provide GPs with the specialist support service they have been asking for. We hope that it will also encourage more individuals and their families to seek help."

A Department of Health spokesman said: "Normally people with eating disorders would be referred to psychiatric hospitals and, if particularly acute, would be treated on an acute ward. Then you would be treated as an out-patient."



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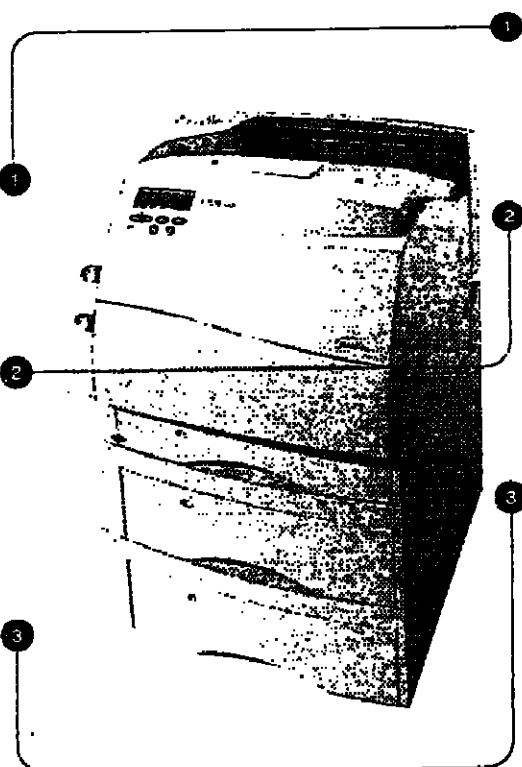
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Churchill with his celebrated cigar and victory sign

New York fan kept Churchill in cigars

By JOHN SHAW

SIR Winston Churchill's cigar supply was maintained throughout the war thanks to the diplomatic bag from Washington, it was disclosed yesterday.

A well-wisher in New York, Samuel Kaplan, sent the Prime Minister his celebrated Cuban cigars and had bands printed with Churchill's name. Batches were supplied to Churchill via the British Embassy and a letter thanking Kaplan for his generosity, along with two cigars, is being sold at Christie's, South Kensington, on June 6. The Kaplan letters and the two cigars are expected to fetch about £1,000.

"I can assure you that their forefathers were quite the best I have ever smoked and I look forward to this new batch."

Churchill wrote to Kaplan on December 27, 1941. "It is very kind of you to think of me and I was much complimented by the bands having my name upon them."

Churchill was at the White House when he wrote the thank-you note, having just addressed Congress after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

The letter is part of a collection of Churchill correspondence formed by the late Robert Hastings, a lawyer who was a trustee of the Winston Churchill Foundation in America. Mr Hastings was involved in the scholarship programme, enabling Americans to study at Churchill College, Cambridge. The sale of his collection, which includes earlier letters, will benefit the foundation and the scholarship scheme.

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BRIEFING

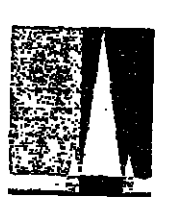
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Henry II: penance

Becket abbey is found in Dublin

By Audrey Magee
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH archaeologists believe that they have uncovered the ruins of a church built by Henry II in atonement for the murder of Thomas a Becket.

The discovery was made during development of a derelict site in the centre of Dublin. Archaeologists uncovered walls, decorated window surrounds and painted floor tiles consistent with a 12th-century abbey. The site, near Meath Street, corresponds with a 1610 map showing the site of the Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr.

Daire O'Rourke, an archaeologist with Dublin Corporation, said: "It is a phenomenal find. It is very exciting." The Corporation and National Monuments Service stopped the development and is to spend £250,000 excavating the site. The developer has been given an alternative site in the city.

Henry II commissioned the abbey outside the walls of Dublin in 1177 as part of his penance for the murder in 1170 of Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was canonised in 1173. Becket was murdered in his cathedral by four knights who had reputedly overheard Henry ask if no one would "rid me of this turbulent priest". The former friends had come into conflict over the relative powers of Church and State.

The abbey built in St Thomas's memory was a thriving Augustinian foundation and an important religious house for more than 350 years, until Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Excavation is not expected to begin until next year. The site has been recovered with earth to protect it from vandals or art thieves and there are security guards.



Worried parents told that BBC's Teletubbies are smarter than they sound

Education experts praise 'dumb' show on children's TV

By Peter Foster

PSYCHOLOGISTS have praised a new BBC programme for children which mothers and educationalists have accused of "dumbing down" to youngsters.

One parent described Teletubbies as slow, banal and ill-conceived, and several wrote complaining to the Radio Times. The programme stars four brightly coloured characters described as half-child, half-teddy bear.

They talk like babies, have televisions for tummies, aerials sticking out of their heads and act clumsily. Each action they perform, such as dropping a hat, is repeated several times during a single 25-minute segment.

However, concerns about the language of Teletubbies — the characters speak in baby-language, saying "hara" instead of "hello" — were not echoed by educational specialists from continental Europe and America when shown an episode of Teletubbies by The Times.

Diederik Van Rossum, a clinical psychologist from Amsterdam with 25 years' experience, watched Teletubbies

with two children aged 2 and 6: "I loved the programme and so did the children," he said. "It gives free range to their imagination and is made with young children in mind."

Dr Van Rossum added that he could not understand the fuss: "I think it is typically British, with your very traditional ideas about education, to worry about this programme. If anything I think Teletubbies is better than Sesame Street, which tries to force ideas onto the child."

Dr Van Rossum also said the repetitions in the programme were part of the attraction. "This is how children actually behave. The language and movement are slow, straight and communicative. My children loved it, you could see how involved they were by their eyes."

Ulrich Schmitz, a psychologist from Cologne who specialises in the effect of television on children, said Teletubbies would not harm linguistic development. However, he was concerned that Teletubbies would encourage children to watch more television at an earlier age.

"Television is often used to keep children quiet and this programme will only help them to get them hooked," he said. "Television should always be the secondary alternative to real life. Children need no more stimulation than is provided in their immediate environment."

Herr Schmitz dismissed concerns over the characters' speaking habits. "The programme aims to communicate not through language but through abstract structures and colours and so cannot be judged by adult measures such as language."

Anne Wood, who devised Teletubbies and has won Bafta awards for her other

work, *Toy TV* and *Rosie and Jim*, said she could not understand all the attention. "We simply set out to entertain young children growing up in a technological world. We are not 'dumbing down' and take always take the opportunity to name things clearly through the narrator, who has a natural adult voice. The programme is deliberately sensitive to children and their needs," she said.

Charlotte Cole, vice-president of international research at the Children's Television Workshop, which produces *Sesame Street*, said repetition played an important part in the learning process for pre-school children. "Young children need a balance of what is new and what is familiar. After all, adults often reconfirm what has been agreed earlier when they get to the end of a telephone conversation," she said.

Ms Cole, who would not comment directly on Teletubbies, said that one of the rules of *Sesame Street* was not to patronise the young viewer. "We try never to talk down to the child, and start with a level of respect for the child, but this is only one philosophy. Every programme has different goals."

However, the first foreign television company to buy Teletubbies is to cut some of the repetition from the episodes. KTV, a children's channel in South Africa, bought 260 episodes for an estimated \$300,000 (£185,000) after viewing the programme at a BBC sales fair.

The BBC expects to sell Teletubbies throughout the world and is in negotiations with television companies across Europe. The corporation's licensing department is also developing a range of Teletubbies merchandise,



The Teletubbies' baby talk and frequent repetition has been criticised by parents

which will be in the shops from October.

Debby Venter, schedules manager at KTV, said the first programme would be broadcast later this year. "The standard 25-minute episode will be cut to 15 or 20 minutes to cut out some of the more clumsy repetitions which we

think might leave our children feeling bored," she said.

Teletubbies will also be shown on KTV's 12-hour satellite channel, which reaches across Africa from the Cape to northern Egypt. Ms Venter added that she had bought the programme because it offered an alternative to the Ameri-

can-style programmes currently on offer for her pre-school audience. "We liked the programme because it left more to the imagination for the children, who will feel very comfortable listening to voices like their own," she said.

Teletubbies is on BBC2 every weekday at 10am.

Bright young things who behave just like students

By Peter Foster and Simon Horsborough

EVER since the days of Dougal, the fluffy dog from *The Magic Roundabout* who was hooked on sugar lumps, there has been a cult following among students for children's television.

The psychedelically coloured Teletubbies are compulsory breakfast viewing on some university campuses. The attraction may have something to do with the fact that the characters behave much like students after a gigging and falling over. The fact that one of the characters is called Dipsy has not escaped notice.

Students have also developed theories on the subversive subtext of Teletubbies. One young man from Oxford said it was clear that the green dome where the Teletubbies lived was a symbol for a

nuclear bunker and that the tubes that emerged from the ground to give instructions to the Teletubbies — such as "It is time for bed" — were identifiable as Orwellian instruments of state control.

Anne Wood, the programme's creator, dismissed such a reading. "Students have always read things into children's television," she said. "Reverting to their childhood helps them to relieve tension."

Karl Dayson, 29, the president of the student's union at Salford University, said that Teletubbies was the ideal "no-brain-required" programme before setting off for library or lecture theatre. "I like the nice bright colours. But Laa Laa [the yellow one] is my favourite because he's really happy and smiley," he said.

Toby Earle, reading ancient



The Magic Roundabout: cult following on campuses

history at Nottingham University, said he thought the surreal movements and bright colours were "hallucinogenic". "I can see the day when students' unions will be holding special Teletubbies events or parties, with maybe

cocktails with the names and colours of Tinky Winky, Dipsy and Po." Mr Earle, 20, from south London, added that as well as being a bit "trippy", "I reckon if you play the gargled baby talk of the Teletubbies backwards there

might well be some hidden messages". Katie Coy, doing business studies at Northumbria University, said she thought the programme was "very silly". However, she was able to produce a faultless impression of Tinky Winky [the purple one] saying "hara".

The growing fascination with Teletubbies has also infiltrated the fancy dress business. Peter Evans, 38, manager of The Costume Studio in Islington, north London, said he had had at least half a dozen requests for Teletubbie suits in the past fortnight. "Perhaps it's because it's the May ball season and there are lots of students with nothing better to do than watch it."

Teletubbies is by no means the first children's programme whose characters who do not speak a conventional language. In the 1970s

programme *The Clangers* the characters communicated through whistles. Bill and Ben managed little more than "flobbadob" and, more recently, *Pingu*, an animated penguin, only squeaks.

Primary school teachers are also having to get abreast of the new craze. Vanessa King, 45, who teaches in a north London primary school, said: "Even my four-year-olds love it. They've managed to see differences in the characters and they imitate their mannerisms." Ms King also countered the criticism that baby talk and catchphrases such as "uh-oh" and "bye-bye" would retard her charges' language development. "As a child I watched *Bill and Ben* and I haven't grown up to be stupid. The inventor of Teletubbies must have very good observational skills: their body language mirrors that of young children."

Research

race hits medical schools

The quality of teaching in medical schools is deteriorating as departments are forced to focus on research to win funds, it was claimed yesterday. Dr Colin Smith, chairman of the BMA's medical academics' committee, blamed the star-rating system by which the quality of teaching at medical centres was assessed every four years. The results are used to determine government research funding levels.

Dr Smith said the scheme was damaging medical education irrespective of whether a centre had scored well or not. Top-scoring universities saw research as the formula for continuing success, while others redoubled their efforts.

Matthews better

Sir Stanley Matthews, 82, is improving and expected to be kept in hospital for another week after a suspected minor heart attack. Doctors said there had been an "encouraging improvement in heart function" after tests showed he had low blood pressure, one symptom of an attack.

Funicular fight

A legal challenge to planning permission for a £17 million funicular railway in the Cairngorms will be made tomorrow by conservationists. Visitor numbers are declining and the Cairngorm Chairlift Company says the railway will attract 200,000 visitors a year in the summer.

Milk teeth saved

A girl, 15, whose teeth were knocked out in a car crash in Carmock, Staffordshire, has been able to have them replaced because a paramedic saved them in a glass of milk. Dentists say it is vital that dislodged teeth are not cleaned, and are kept in the mouth or in milk.

Family injured

A 12-year-old boy is stable in hospital with a fractured skull after a minibus in which 16 members of his family were travelling overturned on a motorway. Fifteen of those in the vehicle were injured in the incident on the M11 near Duxford, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday.


Paramedic dies

Paramedics arrived at a house fire in Newport, Isle of Wight, to discover that a man who had died was one of their colleagues. Andrew Ash's wife Jane and one of their three children had already escaped and firemen rescued the other two. Mr Ash, 40, was overcome by smoke.

Royal relief

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother attended Craithie Kirk on the Balmoral estate yesterday, ending local fears that a decision to substitute an electronic organ for a pipe organ with links to Queen Victoria would damage the relationship with the Royal Family.

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Gene-modified fish grow three times faster than normal

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

GENETIC engineers have created fish that grow at three times the normal rate. The research aims to speed up production of tilapia, a staple food in the Third World.

Professor Norman Maclean of Southampton University hopes to begin trials of the "super-fish" later this year to prove that they reach edible size much more quickly than ordinary fish without eating any more food.

The tilapia is widely farmed throughout the Third World, although the same technique could be used for any type of fish. The rate of growth is speeded up by modifying the fish's genes so that it produces more growth hormone.

Growth hormone gene was taken from an Atlantic salmon and attached to another length of DNA, whose normal job is to regulate production of a substance used by Arctic fish to prevent them becoming frozen in cold seas.

The regulator gene is pro-

duced in the liver, a large organ. This means that instead of producing a small amount of growth hormone in the brain — the normal process — the modified fish produce large amounts of it in the liver and grow much faster.

"Tilapia are the broiler chickens of the Third World," said Professor Maclean, whose work has been supported by the Overseas Development Administration. "They are an African fish originally, but now they are widely grown in ponds in Asia, China, Israel and South America."

The trials are needed to show that the modified fish, rather than simply eating more, convert their food more efficiently. Professor Maclean hopes to conduct them in Israel, Thailand or Iceland. "Tilapia is a warm-water fish, so Iceland may seem an odd choice," he said. "But they have warm lakes caused by

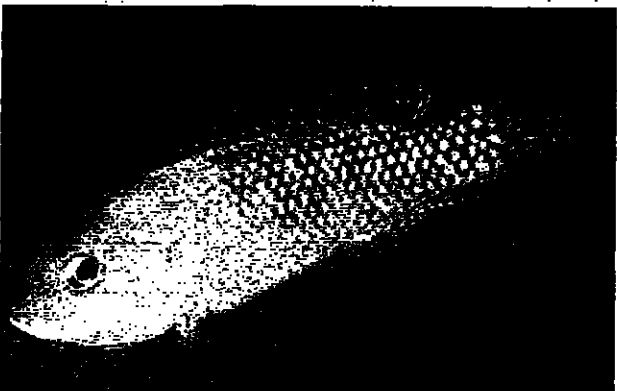
hot springs which would support the fish. If they were to escape, they would die in colder water, so there wouldn't be any risk of accidental spread of the modified fish."

He is also working on making the fish sterile, so that they could not interbreed with wild varieties and alter the natural population. Escapes of farmed salmon in Scotland have raised concerns that the wild stock may be altered and weakened by genes from the farmed fish.

Sterility is engineered into the fish by blocking the production of the hormone which is responsible for the formation of the gonads. This can be done by inserting into the fish a reversed version of the gene responsible for making the hormone — a technique known as "anti-sense".

Tilapia which are farmed often mature precociously and start breeding, producing large colonies of small fish, which is not what fish-farmers want. This problem should be avoided with the sterile variety — "and if we want to breed from any of them, all we have to do is inject the hormone and they will become fertile," said Professor Maclean.

He has not yet eaten any of the gene-modified fish, so cannot say whether they will taste different from the regular variety. "The main appeal is not to produce larger fish, but normal-sized ones in a shorter time," he said. "If you could grow tilapia in a year instead of 18 months, that would be a big improvement in productivity."



The tilapia, which is widely farmed in the Third World



Kodiak, a pure wolf, makes a guest appearance in Gloucestershire yesterday

Wolf-dogs 'too dangerous' to be kept as pets

By Robin Young

TOBIN, a year-old Canadian timberwolf hybrid, was bought by his owners as a pup-sized "bundle of fun". He now stands 6 ft tall on his hind legs and weighs 8 st.

He was seized last month by a local authority which claimed he was a danger to the public and should be destroyed, but won a reprieve at the weekend at a private sitting before a judge at Durham County Court.

Animal experts say wolf-dogs such as Tobin, which are increasingly being sold as pets, could prove more dangerous than pit bull terriers or rottweilers, which are already subject to restrictions under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Tobin is being kept in a secret location until his case returns to court for a full hearing. Trevor Cooper, a solicitor specialising in defending allegedly dangerous dogs, is representing his owner, Thomas Coates. He said yesterday: "The council have agreed not to destroy the animal. We will be able to get in experts and have a full hearing to decide exactly whether Tobin can be classed as a wolf or not."

Tobin was seized last month after Sedgfield council claimed that he needed a special licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act, 1976, which covers animals such as wolves and coyotes. Mr Coates, from Chilton, Co Durham, maintains that his pet does not need a special licence because he is not a wolf, but a type of husky and therefore a domestic pet.

Mr Cooper said: "This case will set a legal precedent as to how wolves are defined. I sit

on the dangerous dogs reform group, where the issue of wolf hybrids has been discussed. There is a real need for clarification of the law."

A spokesman for the RSPCA said yesterday: "There are fears that wolf-dogs will be the next craze among the lovers of exotic animals. We do not believe they make suitable pets. No-one should keep them in their home. They are potential killers."

Meanwhile, hand-reared wolves, well-trained and obedient, are taken on school visits and make guest appearances at zoos and animal parks. Two wolves belonging to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, based in Reading, Berkshire, have been on display this weekend at Sleepy Hollow Farm Park in Gloucestershire, where they have been paraded on leads by their owners, Tina Bennett and Colin Thorn.

Tim Spittle, owner of the park, said yesterday: "We have had the wolves on guest appearances before. They are no trouble, but we do not allow contact sessions with them, because crowds would put them under stress."

The Wolf Conservation Trust, which aims to increase understanding of wolves but has no plans to reintroduce them in the wild, keeps its two zoo-raised and hand-reared wolves under licence.

Wolf-hybrids, some with more than 75 per cent wolf in their make-up, are either imported from North America or Eastern Europe, or raised in Britain from imported stock. They cost about £450 as puppies. Until now, a licence for them has not been regarded as necessary.

Bell and horn section prepares to mount up and pedal allegro con brio

By Dalya Alberge

A MUSICAL composition scored for 111 "humming, whistling, hooting cyclists" is to be given its British premiere next month.

Eine Brise (A Breeze), by the Argentinian composer Mauricio Kagel, 65, who lives in Germany, will be presented on June 28. The

cyclists will be led in formation down Upper Street, Islington, north London, by Stephen Montague, the American composer, himself a keen cyclist. Fortunately, the traffic need be stopped for only 90 seconds — that is how long the piece lasts. Performances set off at 2.15pm and 4.30pm.

Montague, whose own com-

positions have featured the spokes of a bicycle being played like a harp, and who is finishing a piano concerto to be premiered at this summer's BBC Proms, explained that all Kagel's theatre pieces had "absurd combinations". Previous mixed-media works have required singers to produce "screams and yells" and a percus-

sionist to wield a heavy axe, chopping away at a log — in time, admittedly. Another piece asked that backstage staff at an opera house should do what they normally do: the only difference was that they were being watched by an audience.

Eine Brise is not scored with the usual musical notation. Instead,

the composer indicated the pattern in which the cyclists should ride, how they were to be arranged and when they were to ring a bell, toot a horn or utter a "ssssshh" sound.

Montague explained that they would line up in a row, two or three abreast, and ride down Upper Street. The event, which

can be seen and heard free of charge, is presented by the Islington-based Almeida Opera, beginning a season of contemporary opera and music theatre.

Montague said that the sounds would change as the cyclists moved: "It's a progression. Each cyclist's bell will be unique in a block of sound. It's a wide band of

sound that is changing all the time."

The cyclists will include non-musicians. The London Cycling Campaign advertised for participants, noting that "musical experience is optional but a horn or bell would be appreciated".

Music reviews, page 16

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Wave of looters heralds new era in Dostum's panic-stricken ghost town

FIRST, there was anarchy. Young looters with Kalashnikovs arrived in lorries, scaled the walls of United Nations compounds and international aid agencies, screaming "dollars, dollars". They kicked in doors, slapped people, took watches and wallets, radios, torches and — especially popular — Thermos flasks.

They examined camera equipment worth thousands of pounds and discarded it as worthless to their meagre world of bare survival. They



Christopher Thomas finds himself caught up in the initial anarchy as Mazar-i-Sharif falls to new Taliban masters

demanding my laptop computer, which I had been trying to hide. I resisted: a rifle barrel was thrust into my belly. Deciding against shooting me, the gunman raised the butt to smash my head. I gave him the computer. He turned

it around, wondering what it was, tried to open it, failed, and tossed it across the room in disgust. I caught it. He was already on his way downstairs to search for better loot, yelling abuse randomly at people standing frozen in

fear. This happened in the United Nations guest house, where several foreign aid workers and journalists were staying. Several people had made it to the gloom of the underground bunker, where they shrank into the dark corners, unseen.

The gunmen practically tripped over them. This mayhem carried a message as clear as any formal announcement: it was over for the Government of northern Afghanistan. The first sign of collapse came at 5.30pm on

Saturday, the desert sun still baking this sleepy town of 200,000. Automatic gunfire erupted to the west of the city, and there were explosions in the air from rocket-propelled grenades. This was designed to clear the streets.

There was frenzy. Barrow boys ran home, pushing their carts, fruit tumbling off. Shop shutters fell in a clattering chorus, men on donkeys slapped their animals to a trot, ponies pulling carts were whipped into a gallop. Everybody ran, even an old man

with a stick. The full veils of women lifted above their ankles, an indignity that did not slow their flight.

In minutes it was a ghost town. There had been rumours all day of momentous events about to happen, but few really believed that the army of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, 43, warlord of the north, could cave in like a house of cards. General Dostum was seen at the airport in Mazar-i-Sharif four hours earlier. His wife, children and father were flown abroad on

Friday. His generals were told to get out as best they could; most escaped.

The ugly mood of defeat moved swiftly to celebration of victory. Pro-Taliban forces came first in a dribble, then a wave, shouting reassurances as they took up positions that people had nothing to fear, that this was not another plundering Afghan army come to rape and terrify. The troops hurt nobody; their behaviour was impeccable.

At 7.30pm the muezzin in the central mosque called the

faithful to prayer — in vain — as darkness fell over a new Mazar-i-Sharif, one that must obey unfamiliar regulations of Islamic orthodoxy.

Commander Qazi Gargari, who led the seizure of both Mazar-i-Sharif and General Dostum's headquarters town of Shebarghan to the west, leaned against his tank outside the mosque, beaming at the triumphant yelping of his young troops and said: "A new order has begun. True Islam has arrived in northern Afghanistan."

B.K. BANGASH/AP

Taleban triumph as warlord bribes his way into exile

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF, NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

RUSSIAN helicopters patrolled the Central Asian border with Afghanistan yesterday, backed by thousands of ground troops — the first military response to the collapse of the main resistance to the fundamentalist Taleban Islamic militia in northern Afghanistan. The manoeuvres were a warning to the extremist student army to stay its side of the Oxus River.

Taleban's allies moved swiftly from the west, first capturing the small town of Shebarghan where General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord of the north, had his headquarters. Tanks then charged 70 miles down the narrow desert road to Mazar-i-Sharif, the northern capital, unchallenged, unexpected and mostly unwanted by a population used to a liberal interpretation of Islam. Pakistan became the first country last night to recognise Taleban as the Government of Afghanistan after the militia announced it had captured the Salang Pass. Taleban is demanding to be granted Afghanistan's seat at the United Nations, still held by the former Government of President Rabbani, ousted from Kabul eight months ago.

A huge portrait of General

Dostum stared down from a customs hall as he drove out of Afghanistan across a bridge over the Oxus into Uzbekistan. On the way to the border post he passed many towering portraits of himself, most of which were destroyed with gunfire or torn down a few hours later. He also had to bribe some of his own soldiers with dollars to let him pass.

Behind him 22 Jeeps and cars filled with 120 generals and senior government officials snaked towards the border, battered by sand kicked up by a windstorm that made the road perilous. They, too, had to bribe their own people to get away.

At the last checkpoint they encountered men who had just arrived from the invading army. They somehow got by

them, presumably with money, but were forced to leave their vehicles behind and walk the 300 yards across the bridge. The vehicles were abandoned at all angles beside the customs shed.

General Dostum, dressed in army fatigues, was by now in safe hands among fellow Uzbekis across the river, on his way to refuge in Turkey. The leaders of his vanquished army trudged over the sluggish Oxus, carrying what they could, for what will probably be a lifetime of exile.

Most had enriched themselves handsomely when in power. The political organisation they abandoned has been reconstituted into allegiance with Taleban, a classic Afghan compromise. It will seek to bring in General Ahmed Shah Massoud, the Tajik military leader, who runs two or three provinces in the northeast. Two other commanders, controlling a province each, are being invited to join a national government of reconciliation. The invasion was launched by supporters of General Abdul Malik, 35, a former Dostum loyalist who switched to Taleban last week over a personal feud. The Dostum empire started immediately to crumble.



Troops who defected to Taleban's side ride past the Hazrat Ali mosque in a truck bearing an anti-aircraft gun after Mazar-i-Sharif's fall

Border alert by Russia after 'keep out' warning

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, said "very tough action" would be taken against the Islamic movement if it threatened any of the former Soviet republics. "The Russian leadership states that if the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] border is violated, the mechanism of the CIS collective security treaty will be immediately activated," said a statement by the Russian Government, which has more than 50,000 troops in the region.

By far the most vulnerable country is Tajikistan, which shares an 800-mile common border with Afghanistan, along which 25,000 Russian troops

have been struggling to maintain security. President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan held an emergency meeting of his security advisers at the weekend to decide how to meet the potential Taleban threat and what to do with the thousands of expected refugees. Uzbekistan is also troubled by the Taleban victory. It backed General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Afghan warlord

and ethnic Uzbek, who was driven out of his stronghold. In Kyrgyzstan, border troops were put on alert.

For the Russians the latest developments pose a huge headache. The Kremlin is determined to maintain its political influence and military presence, but is still haunted by its disastrous nine-year intervention in Afghanistan.



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The French advantage within the axis is temporary, determined only by Germany's passing embarrassment in matters fiscal. Sooner rather than later, the essential problems — a swollen Germany too heavy for comfort in harness with a shrivelled France with fading global influence — will reassert themselves. Then, perhaps, Britain will find a space for itself in Europe. For the time being, it has to be content.

At 5pm, an hour before most polls closed, just 54.51 per cent had voted, even less than the previous record of 54.7 per

Government attaches to the search for a just and durable peace between Israel and its neighbours." Mr Fatchett, who twice visited the area while in opposition, arrives with peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians halted since work on the east Jerusalem settlement of Har Homa began two months ago. No peace negotiations between Israel and Syria have taken place since Israel's right-wing Government took office 12 months ago.

"Milisav was a great guy, we all loved him. Poverty and the fight for money is destroying our Serb destiny," said the Jovics' tearful friend, Boban, over beer and plum brandy in the Desica Cafe in Zvornik, where a bridge over the Drina links Bosnia with Serbia.

Hours earlier, Milisav's body had made its last crossing of the river that tugs at every Serb heart, on its way to a post-mortem examination in the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade.

In dribs and drabs the 300 Bosnian Serb mercenaries who failed to provide any backbone to the routed former Zairean government troops are returning to their grim homeland. Most came from the Drina Valley, scene of the vilest ethnic cleansing

[illegible]

Texas accused of 'assembly line' rush on death row

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WHEN a double murderer is put to death by lethal injection as scheduled on Wednesday he will bring a gruesome distinction to Texas.

The Lone Star State will have executed eight condemned men during May, the highest monthly total for any state since the death penalty was restored in 1976. The new tally will stand briefly: Texas has set 11 executions for June, breaking a record held by North Carolina since 1920.

Texas now has assembly-line capital punishment, says Clive Stafford Smith, a British lawyer whose New Orleans practice is devoted to helping death row inmates in the American South.

The Texan rush to irrevocable judgment began in March when the state appeal court upheld a new law that severely restricts the rights of appeal against the death penalty. Texas lawmakers were determined to scythe at least two-and-a-half years off the average life expectancy of eight years on death row. The law works in conjunction with tough new constraints imposed by Congress to curb the transfer of appeals from state to federal courts.

The speeded-up system has brought unexpected repercussions. Executions have become mundane. No longer news, they rate barely a mention in Texan newspapers and on television. Sometimes no lawyers can be found to handle the all but hopeless task of

last-minute appeals. Hundreds of death penalty opponents used to demonstrate outside Huntsville prison, known as The Walls. Now there are few. Just eight showed up for the vigil last Tuesday when a rapist murderer was put to death. Four days before that, three protested against an execution.

The tradition of waiting until midnight before activating the flow of poison into the condemned man's veins has changed. The new time is 6pm.

As a warden explained, people who must go to work the next day have no wish to stay up late.

The grisly custom of granting the inmate's wishes for a final meal prevails, but there are limits. A last gasp on a cigarette or a shot of spirits to dull the brain are banned by prison rules. So is bubble gum.

Asked by tradition if he had anything to say, one man prattled on for 30 minutes after being strapped to the table before he was cut short by a signal to the executioner, unseen at his panel behind a one-way mirror. The man's last words were: "Warden, you didn't let me finish."

The 442 men and eight women on death row in Texas view their shortening odds with grim resignation. Earl Behringer, due to die on June 11 and still protesting that he did not kill a couple in a parked car, said: "I'm a Chris-

tian and I have a better place to go to than this."

Texas has executed 122 since 1976, far ahead of second-place Florida and Virginia, both 39. Texas is the capital of capital punishment because of its large urban populations, a gun-toting tradition of violence and deeply-felt support for frontier justice.

Mr Stafford Smith's goal is to carry his campaign to Texas, but he said yesterday the state is so huge that it takes monumental resources to cover even a handful of appeals. There has never been an adequate organisation prepared to wage the fight, and legal representation at trials is often abysmal. He said that America has 3,700 people awaiting capital punishment, and if one were executed every day except Sundays for ten years the number would scarcely have changed. American courts sentence more than 300 to death row every year.



Winning hold: Akebono, the Hawaiian-born sumo grand champion, with the Emperor's Cup in Tokyo yesterday after beating Takanohana

Army coup forces Sierra Leone's President to flee

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

TROOPS were reported yesterday to have overthrown the civilian Government in Sierra Leone and forced President Kabbah to flee the capital in a coup that threatens to torpedo the West African country's fragile peace accord.

Reports from the capital, Freetown, said that heavy fighting broke out around the government offices and military headquarters soon after 5am. Soldiers using automatic weapons, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades apparently met with some resistance, but there was no immediate estimate of casualties. Witnesses said that about 20 heavily armed soldiers had broken into the central prison and freed 600 inmates.

After the soldiers had made a radio broadcast ordering all ministers to report to military headquarters, a helicopter was seen taking off from Mr Kabbah's Freetown residence. Last night he was believed to be in neighbouring Guinea. Corporal Gborie, a spokesman for the soldiers, said in a radio broadcast that they were

"now in control of the state". He added: "We want democracy, but not this democracy. Our soldiers have been suffering far too long." He called for the return to Sierra Leone of Foday Sankoh, the leader of the rebel Revolutionary Front, and of Captain Solomon Musa, a former deputy military leader linked to another coup in 1993.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Eneka Anyaoku, said that he viewed the coup with great concern and condemned it as totally unacceptable. "This is a particularly retrograde step for Sierra Leone after the advances in building democracy, peace and reconciliation in recent years," he said.

Sierra Leone, a former British protectorate set up in 1787 for freed slaves, was plunged into a civil war in 1991 that killed 10,000 people and brought the economy to its knees. President Kabbah took office in March last year after multiparty elections ended four years of army rule.

Tobacco firm to unsaddle ad hero

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MARLBORO MAN, the rugged American icon who has puffed away in the great outdoors for more than four decades, now faces the sack.

Under a radical deal hammered out between the American tobacco industry and the country's powerful anti-cigarette lobby, the chain-smoking cowboy could be consigned to oblivion as early as next month.

The agreement commits the industry to cutting teenage smoking by 30 per cent within five years, 50 per cent in seven years and 60 per cent by the end of the decade. Companies could be fined as much as \$1.5 billion (£920 million) for each percentage point that they fall short of the targets.

The industry has agreed to make far-reaching changes in the way in which it sells its products. This includes an end to all "character" advertising, which is thought to convey the message to teenagers that smoking is "cool".

"Characters" are defined as people — real or symbolic — as well as animated cartoon creations. Marlboro Man, tobacco's top salesman, falls foul of the prohibition, as does "Joe Camel", the "hip" cartoon dromedary who trumpets the cause of Camel cigarettes.

The deal also calls for an end to billboard advertising and a ban on cigarette vending machines in places to which minors have access.



Marlboro Man: may disappear next month

The restrictions come in the context of talks, started two months ago, between the industry and 30 state attorneys-general. Under negotiation is a proposal to set up a "compensation kitty" for smokers. The industry's fund would contribute \$300 billion over 25 years to help to pay for tobacco-related illnesses.

In exchange, the industry wants an end to punitive damages in future lawsuits, the elimination of "class-action" suits (for example, all air stewardesses being able to sue because they once worked in a plane's smoking section), and a requirement that smokers should go through a medically monitored "kick the habit" programme before they can sue for damages.

As anti-smoking hysteria grows in the United States, tobacco firms are pursuing the negotiations vigorously. An industry lawyer said: "The risks have now grown too large for the tobacco companies to continue gambling on wins and losses in court. They want clear rules to be laid out now."

Central Park killing panics New Yorkers

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A KILLING in Central Park, allegedly carried out by two 15-year-olds who were high on drugs and drink, has sent tremors through New York City.

Police charged Christopher Vazquez and Daphne Abdela yesterday with the murder of Michael McMorrow, 44, an alcoholic with whom the pair had been drinking.

Mr McMorrow's mutilated body was recovered from the park's lake on Friday. He had been stabbed more than 30 times — "frenziedly", a police spokesman said — and had been disembowelled by the pair so that his body would sink to the bottom.

The two teenagers are lovers. He comes from a modest Hispanic home on the Upper East side of the city, while she is the adopted daughter of a millionaire who lives just off Central Park. Although he has no record, she has been in

and out of borstals and drug rehabilitation clinics.

The pair apparently had been drinking late on Thursday when Mr McMorrow joined them. After providing convivial company for an hour, however, he is alleged to have put his arm around Miss Abdela and made sexual advances. Enraged, and egged on by his girlfriend, Christopher Vazquez killed him.

The case has caused panic among many New Yorkers, who regard Central Park as a metaphor for the city's well-being. The 843-acre park, an oasis of green amid the skyscrapers, has always been a source as much of civic pleasure as of urban paranoia.

The last park murder took place in September 1995, and one of the boasts of Rudolph Giuliani, the city's tough Mayor, is that Central Park is now free of "punks, pimps and pushers".

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Tehran euphoria greets moderate's landslide

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE landslide victory of a moderate cleric in Iran's presidential elections represents the most stunning political upset since Ayatollah Khomeini ousted the pro-American Shah, and could signal a turning point in the country's Islamic revolution.

Some diplomats in Tehran likened the mood of euphoric relief, and disbelief at the scale of victory, to that which swept Britain after Tony Blair's victory, but they cautioned against expecting any dramatic changes in Iran's behaviour.

Sayed Muhammad Khatami, a former Culture Minister, won nearly three times as many votes as his challenger, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the hardline Speaker of Iran's parliament who was backed by the conservative clerical establishment that has ruled Iran for 18 years. Hojatoleslam Khatami's message of open-minded tolerance won him the enthusiastic support of intellectuals, women, and young people, all longing for more freedom, while his left-wing economic agenda se-

duced the urban poor. There was a record turnout of more than 90 per cent of Iran's 33 million eligible voters. Hojatoleslam Khatami took 69 per cent of the popular vote to the Speaker's 25 per cent.

The outgoing President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said Hojatoleslam Khatami's victory reflected a surging youth movement which the establishment would have to recognise as an important political force. "People here do not quite believe what they have done," a Western envoy said. "They never thought the establishment would allow

Boost for women's hopes

Tehran: The outgoing President Rafsanjani of Iran said yesterday he would like to see women appointed Cabinet ministers under his newly elected successor, Sayed Muhammad Khatami.

"We are in favour of the presence of women in the new Cabinet," Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani told a press con-

ference in Tehran. "The education and the ability of Iranian women are such that they can be appointed to high-level posts," he said.

Hojatoleslam Khatami was especially popular among female voters after promising during his campaign a greater role in public life for women. (AFP)

ic Verses and subject of a death order by Ayatollah Khomeini certainly will not be top of his in-tray, nor any overture to the United States," a European envoy said. "Why should he risk getting stabbed in the back when he would gain little domestically?"

The powers of Hojatoleslam Khatami are likely to be curbed by hardline conservatives and powerful religious institutions, as well as by parliament, which is dominated by his defeated rival's conservative supporters. Diplomats were doubtful that a parliamentary pledge of support for the new President yesterday meant that he could enjoy its genuine backing.

The President's position is also subordinate to Iran's dour spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is in overall charge of strategy and foreign policy and had tacitly backed Hojatoleslam Khatami. He remains virulently hostile to America and the West in general.

Leading article, page 19



Hojatoleslam Sayed Muhammad Khatami at a Tehran polling station, where he was mobbed by supporters

Jiang seen as head of Asia's powerful

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ASIA'S 50 most powerful people are headed by President Jiang Zemin of China, according to annual rankings published in *Asia Week*, a Hong Kong-based news magazine. Tung Chee-hwa, his handpicked Chief Executive for Hong Kong, comes fourth, just four ahead of the chief of Hong Kong's most feared Triad.

Second on the list is Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Malaysia's Prime Minister. Third, down from first in 1996, is President Suharto of Indonesia, "adept at playing off one rival against the other". Up from sixth last year and now fourth is Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

It will make Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, up to seventeenth from twenty-first in 1996, furious to see that Zhu Rongji — "abrasive, arrogant, with no shortage of enemies" — one of China's deputy prime ministers and economics chief, lies fifth, up from eighth. Mr Zhu may replace Mr Li in November. Lee Teng-hui, Prime Minister of Taiwan, third last year, is seventh, "shaken by public anger over corruption and crime".

Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, eighteenth in 1996, is out of power and off the list, and so is Burma's democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who *Asia Week* claims is less challenging to the ruling junta than last year.

Three women are on the list: Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, Mr Suharto's daughter and a leading tycoon, at 31, up from 33; at 33 is Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; unchanged at 37 is Sri Lanka's President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

In *Asia Week*'s dissidents category, first is Daw Suu Kyi; Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's Democrats is third, just ahead of China's jailed dissident, Wei Jingsheng.

WORLD SUMMARY

130 'looters' killed in Indonesia

Jakarta: At least 130 suspected looters were burnt to death in an Indonesian shopping centre during a riot on the last day of campaigning for the country's general election, the police said yesterday. Four other people died elsewhere in the city of Banjarmasin, in Borneo island, as thousands of people ran amok after clashes involving supporters of rival political parties. Hundreds of wooden shanty houses, a church, a Buddhist temple and the headquarters of the government party, Golkar, were burnt down.

Senior senator

Washington: Strom Thurmond became the longest-serving member in the history of the US Senate (Ian Brodie writes). "I feel like a million dollars," said Mr Thurmond who, at 94, has promised to retire at the end of his current six-year term for South Carolina, when he will have turned 100. His 41 years and 10 months in the Senate exceed the previous record held by Carl Hayden of Arizona.

Corsica bombs

Bastia: A series of bomb attacks, one a 33lb charge that badly damaged a roads department building, went off around Corsica in what appeared to be a new offensive by militants seeking greater autonomy for the French Mediterranean island. The attacks were timed to coincide with the French parliamentary elections. (AP)

Crew rescued

Madrid: The crew of a Spanish-led expedition which left Easter Island on May 5 in the hope of sailing across the Pacific on a primitive reed raft was rescued 250 miles into its journey by an American yacht two days after the vessel, modelled on Inca craft, was split by a storm. (Reuters)

Yeltsin to discuss future of Kuriles

By DAVID WATTS

RUSSIA and Japan have opened the way for regular summits after President Yeltsin committed himself to the withdrawal of troops from the disputed Kurile Islands claimed by both countries.

The first top-level meeting will come at the Denver conference of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations when the Russian leader will meet Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, signalling a new attempt to resolve the northern islands dispute.

But Yukihiko Ikeda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, said in London the issue of sovereignty over the islands, which Russia seized in the closing weeks of the Second World War, had yet to be resolved. Japan did not know how many Russian troops remained on the islands, although at the end of 1995 there were 3,500.



The islands are just the most prominent element of a relationship that has been among the most prickly in the world, beginning as it did with Japan's defeat of the Russian Imperial Navy at the Battle of Tsushima Strait in 1905 and leading through the years of constant Cold War tension.

It is a further mark of the changed atmosphere that the two navies have exchanged port visits for the first time since the Tsushima battle.

Large stylized letters spelling out "ONE" vertically.



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Drivers' love of danger money

A study of driver behaviour, toll roads and traffic congestion has produced results that have alarmed researchers. **Anjana Ahuja reports**

Diving into the psyche of car drivers can prove a worrying business. Experiments at Leeds University have suggested that if drivers were made to pay for road use according to the amount of time they spent on the road, they would be twice as likely to drive dangerously.

The volunteer drivers who participated in the experiment were more inclined to jump red lights, break the speed limit and indulge in risky overtaking. When questioned afterwards, the drivers said that they felt more anxious after the journey. They also admitted to feeling less in control of their vehicles.

Alarming, the experiment was performed on a driving simulator. The researchers found the results so shocking that they decided it would be unethical to allow the experiment to be repeated on the road.

This is the first discovery of a £152,000 project being carried out jointly by academics at the Institute of Transport Studies based at Leeds University, and Newcastle University. The aim is to find out how drivers are likely to respond to road charges. The project is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and is headed at Leeds by Professor Peter Bonsall and Professor Tony May, and at Newcastle by Professor Peter Hills.

The results will be incorporated into a computer model showing how driver behaviour affects urban congestion. The researchers are hoping to hit upon a magic pricing formula that will limit car use, encourage drivers to steer clear of congested or environmentally sensitive routes, prompt commuters to use public transport and reduce pollution. The model also should help planners to devise a strategy for avoiding the ultimate traffic nightmare: permanent gridlock.

It is generally agreed that traffic is a menace that needs to be curbed. Road pricing often has been touted as a way of easing overcrowding. However, nobody seems sure of the

most effective way to implement it. Should there be toll roads, where drivers are charged a flat fee to enter a particular highway? Or should payment depend on distance? Will road pricing encourage drivers to use less suitable routes? The important unknown in the equation is how drivers will react when faced with a fee.

Thanks to the Leeds University simulator experiment — which used a saloon car positioned in front of a curved screen showing the road — one option has been abandoned already. "We saw enough in the driver-simulator experiment to convince us that charging for time spent on the road posed an unacceptable safety risk," says Professor Bonsall.

The simulator experiment involved 44 men and women drivers, who were charged according to two schemes. In the first, they paid for time spent below a particular speed, say 10mph. This penalised rush-hour traffic, which clogs the roads and produces pollution. In the second scheme, drivers paid for time spent in a particular area.

To make the experiment as realistic as possible, volunteers had to feel as if they were dipping into their own pockets. So, at the start of each journey, they were each given a sum of money. As the experiment progressed, deductions were made according to road use.

Despite the small sample size, it did not take long for two worrying trends to emerge. Professor Bonsall says: "Charging according to time spent below a particular speed seemed to encourage the jumping of red lights. And charging according to the time spent in a particular area produced speeding and dangerous overtaking."

The results were published last month in *Traffic Engineering and Control*, a professional journal.

Professor Bonsall is taking charge of another interesting experiment: the route choice simulator, called Vladimir. The idea is to see whether charging on certain



The researchers are hoping to hit upon a pricing formula that will limit car use and encourage drivers to steer clear of congested or environmentally sensitive routes

routes prompts people to find alternative routes, even if this entails a longer journey. "It's a trade-off between money and time," Professor Bonsall says. "We want to see how people handle this trade-off, and whether the same attitude is shared by different types of drivers, such as commuters, shoppers and visitors."

Another important component of the project is a detailed questionnaire that will be answered by

thousands of drivers in Leeds and Newcastle. It will ask respondents for their opinions on road pricing, and whether tolls would encourage the use of public transport, park-and-ride facilities and car-sharing.

The final contribution to the project started last week in Newcastle. Sixty staff at the city's university have had their cars equipped with technology which automatically deducts money on certain routes. Some participants

are being charged a flat fee for entering the city; others pay per mile for the privilege of using certain roads. Again, volunteers on the two-week experiment have been given some money to start with.

Before embarking on the experiment, volunteers had to fill in a questionnaire. However, what people say and what people do are often very different.

"The field trial is to see what people are really prepared to pay to

drive on their preferred route," says Neil Thorpe, a lecturer in transport studies at Newcastle University and a researcher on the project. If they change to another route, an algorithm calculates a lower price. Mr Thorpe says: "There is a price which people are prepared to pay to stay on their preferred route. For some, it will be 30p per journey. Others are happy to pay a pound."

All these different strands will be pulled together in a computer

simulation, called a network assignment model. The model, which will be based on either Cambridge, York or Leeds, will predict the effect of different pricing policies. It assumes that petrol prices and road tax are fixed.

The simulation will be finished in the middle of next year. It should allow traffic planners to come up with a workable way of introducing road pricing without alienating too many behind the wheel.

□ Satellite pinpoints approach of red dwarf star □ Successful brain operation in the Stone Age □ Mysterious reserves of water

Star with its sights on Earth

A SATELLITE launched by the European Space Agency in 1989 and designed to measure the precise positions of the stars has produced a surprise: a star that seems to be heading our way. The red dwarf star Gliese 710 is more than 100,000 times larger than the Earth and is approaching at 14 kilometres per second.

There is no immediate need for alarm, as Gliese 710 is 63 light years away and will take a million years to get here. A collision is unlikely, but even a near miss could prove exciting. If Gliese 710 just grazes the solar system and disturbs the Oort cloud, the region around the edge which contains thousands of comets, it could create a secondary bombardment by nudging comets on to new orbits that might intersect that of the Earth.

The discovery was reported earlier this month at a meeting in Venice to discuss the Hipparcos results. Dr Robert Preston and Dr Joan Garcia Sanchez of the US Jet

Propulsion Laboratory in California used data from Hipparcos to study how the positions of stars changed over time. The satellite can pinpoint the stars with an accuracy of half a millionth of a degree, so any sideways movement is easily seen. The researchers picked the 1,200 stars that moved sideways the least.

Next, they had to find if they were moving towards or away from us, easily done by measuring their Doppler shift, the degree to which the spectrum of light is shifted by the relative motion. Combine such movements with knowledge of the distance of stars and it is possible to work out how soon to expect a stellar visitor. They found eight stars that are likely to come



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

within five light years of the Sun in the next million years. A red dwarf called Barnard's star will be the first. Within 10,000 years it will approach the solar system more closely than our current nearest neighbour, Proxima Centauri, which is 4.3 light years away.

By far the closest, on present calculations, will be Gliese 710, which is in the constellation

Ophiuchus. "If you believe the data we have, it will strike the Oort cloud in about a million years," Dr Preston told *New Scientist*. "It would certainly throw lots of comets inwards."

There are plenty of uncertainties about the calculations, including the possibility that the incoming stars may have com-

panions too dim to see. If they do, then the two will be rotating around each other, and the inferred direction of motion of the visible star will be wrong.

There is a fair chance that more precise observations will prove that Gliese 710 doesn't actually have our number on it, so panic is hardly called for. But the same technique might provide interesting information about what happened in the past. Early in the life of the Earth, about 4.5 billion years ago, it was subjected to a blizzard of cometary impacts.

Dr Preston is now looking at stars heading directly away from the Earth, in the hope of finding one that made a close pass at about that time. He even suggests that one day it may be possible to identify the star that unleashed the comet that put paid to the dinosaurs — if, indeed, one did. "Fossils tell us about past disasters," he says. "We hope to identify culprits among stars now hurrying away from the scene."

Skull reveals early surgery

THE earliest known brain operation was successfully performed more than 7,000 years ago, a Stone Age skull found in

Alsace has shown. A man who had died at the age of 50 had undergone trepanning, a process in which holes are made in the skull with the aim of relieving headaches or curing disorders such as epilepsy.

This particular patient, found in a grave at the Neolithic burial site at Enlène, had been trepanned twice, creating large holes in his skull. Remarkably, he does not appear to have become infected, and the evidence of bone regrowth shows that he lived on for some considerable time after the operation. Dr Kurt Alt of the Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology Freiburg University and colleagues report in *Nature*. Analysis of grave goods found

with the body enable it to be dated to 5100-4900 BC, which has been confirmed by carbon-dating of the human bones. The success of the operation, say the team, attests to the "high craftsmanship and well-founded anatomical knowledge of the surgeon".

The fact that the patient survived to a good age indicates that the operation at least didn't kill him — making it "the oldest healed neurosurgical operation known worldwide", the team says. Whether it did any good may be open to more doubt.

Chalk's storage secret found

AFTER a run of dry seasons, the chalk streams of England are low. But the fact that there is any water flowing in them at all is thanks to the ability of chalk aquifers to store prodigious amounts of water. Quite how they do it has long been something of a mystery. A team from the Univer-

sity of Reading has now produced an answer: Chalk is filled with small fractures and cracks, which fill and empty as the water table rises and falls. But when a study was made some years ago of two rivers that were fed by chalk catchments, it was found that the actual flow during dry spells was ten times greater than the volume of the fractures, so somehow the rock must have extra storage capacity.

The Reading team — Dr Mike Price, Professor Clive McCann and Rob Low — used a variety of methods to study chalk from three sites, including passing sound waves through the rock as pressure was increased, to see if there were invisible microfractures that closed under greater pressure. They eventually concluded that the answer lies in the rough surfaces of the fissures within the chalk.

These irregularities create a large surface area to trap the water. The actual volume is only a quarter of 1 per cent of the rock, but given the quantity of chalk, it adds up to one billion cubic metres — or half the capacity of all the reservoirs in Britain.

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MARTIN BEDDALL

'If everyone was a rebel, I'd want to be a bank clerk'

Patience is not Keith Allen's strong point. "This is pathetic," he jeers at a perfectly forgivable memory lapse. "Oh come on. This is ****ing ridiculous!" Veins bulge and bluish jowls clench. For a moment, it looks like he might punch himself in the face.

Thankfully, just as you are casting about for a diversion — this is the man who famously stopped a fight in the Groucho Club by organising a penis-measuring contest — Allen retrieves the word he has been looking for from a smoking memory bank and resumes his rant against the "accountant-led ****" at the BBC. "Oh it annoys me. It's just sick. Oh God, it's sick. It's really is ****ing sick. It annoys me so much."

It's 10am and Allen is stone-cold sober. This is just the way he talks, in furious, repetitive italics, pacing out his thoughts like a caged madman. He is here to promote BBC1's new six-part drama series, *Born to Run*, and is talking up the project like a trouper when he recalls the indignity of having to shoot sensitive scenes in a warehouse next to a go-kart track because the budget would not stretch to a BBC sound-stage.

"It's an incredibly graphic illustration of how things are going down the pan," he says, almost weeping. "And it's not fair to expect actors and directors to operate under those conditions. It's just not fair."

Such quivering sensitivity is unexpected in a performer who once threatened a comedy club audience with darts and turned a fire hose on a female heckler. But as Allen points out: "It's been 13 years since I was a comedian." Performances in classic TV productions such as *Making Out* and *A Very British Coup*, and cameos in the cult movies *Trainspotting* and *Shallow Grave*, established Allen as a compelling screen presence.

Actor Keith Allen is an ex-Borstal boy who has the reputation of being the thinking woman's Oliver Reed.

Interview by E Jane Dickson

but it was his skin-crawling incarnation of the grasping, wife-beating Jonas in BBC1's *Martin Chuzzlewit* that finally persuaded a wary public that the former Borstal boy had "gone legit".

"I told the director that he had to cast me as Jonas Chuzzlewit because it was all in here," says Allen, making a scary face and tapping gingerly at his temple, as if his brain were an unexploded mine of

long as anyone can remember. One of Britain's most original and uncontrollable comic talents (his early pirate radio broadcasts made Chris Evans sound about as near the knuckle as Sooty), Allen has the reputation of a thinking woman's Oliver Reed.

Born in Wales, the son of a Royal Navy submariner, he won a scholarship to public school but flunked out and ended up in Borstal for petty thieving; older, but no wiser, he did a brief stretch in prison for smashing up a nightclub. Allen has always claimed that he only went to drama school "to meet girls", and a turbulent personal life suggests that meeting them is the easy part.

The tabloids had a field day when his wife, Alison, moved out: with the couple's two children to live with comedian Harry Enfield, and later chucked their concern over "Mr Nasty's" relationship with Julia Sawalha of *Absolutely Fabulous*. Most recently Allen hit the headlines when he and his current girlfriend, Nina Park, took out an injunction against Anjele Talbot, an ex-lover who has pursued Allen through the courts for child maintenance for her daughter. A wodge of "love-rat Keith" press cuttings lays seven children by five different women at Allen's door. Besides correcting the figure to "five children to four women, two of whom are the planned children of my marriage", Allen stonewalls all questions about his personal life with a courteous "no comment".

"All the **** they write about me is water off a duck's back," he says. "I feel absolutely confident in my own abilities

'People rely too much on intellect instead of the heart'

unpleasantness. When Allen is in scary mode, it's hard to know whether to laugh or run. Square and stocky, he has the physique of a bare-knuckle fighter. His face, however, is curiously carnal and clever, the face of a Jacobean anti-hero fascinated and repelled by the rat in his skull. In *Born to Run*, which began last night on BBC1, he practically sweats despair as Byron, an adulterous used-car dealer with more Armani than sense: "Byron's a nice guy," says Allen, and he means it. "He's a man of his time — fortyish, too old to be a punk and too young to be a hippy. It's a difficult time that, for men."

Allen is 43 and has been having a difficult time for as



Fast and furious: Keith Allen's ideas on creating a new social order include banning the Spice Girls "so dull, so boring" and bringing back National Service

to express who I am. And if you don't get it," he says, pointedly, "what do you want me to do about it?"

I put this in my pipe and smoke it. Allen rips out for more fags and returns in more accommodating mood. Outlining his ideas for a new social order, he becomes positively statesmanlike. Chief among his dictates are: 1 No more kids calling their poncey middle-class parents by their first name ("I think that's disgusting"); 2 No more Spice Girls ("So sad, so dull and so boring"); 3 No more political correctness ("New feminists — just another word for slags"); 4 No more thinking.

He grows passionate on this last point. "Much the same as kids and animals," he explains, "people are blessed with the ability to feel, but I find the ability to feel is eroded by intellectual discussion. I really do. People rely too much on the intellect when they should appeal to the heart, to our sense of right and wrong." These brazen principles are enshrined in Allen's personal manifesto, a propaganda film entitled *Legalise Dope and Bring Back National Service*, which has already been submitted to the BBC.

"They [the dolts at the Beeb] couldn't quite get their heads round it," says Allen. "It's as much a comment on the rock star generation and their children as it is on the Government and its terribly hypocritical stance on class B drugs. But it's also a comment on usefulness in society," says Allen, who is "totally serious" about square-bashing the way to social reform.

"It's a fact that post-war British comedy wouldn't have existed if you hadn't had National Service," he points out. "The Goons, Galton and Simpson, all that lot met in the Army. I just love the idea of a disparate body of people from all classes having to come together and talk and cope with each other."

This rosy view of institutional life is, Allen admits, coloured by his own impressions of Borstal ("I bloody loved it"). And this unlikely recruit to the backbone-stiffening brigade sees a new improved National Service as an obvious solution to youth unemployment.

"I genuinely believe that the dole culture has gone too far. I'm not talking about the people who are on the dole, because I believe that they really want something to do, and I don't think that learning to spot-weld some ****ing Jap-

anese radio is the answer. The point about structure and regulation is that they are there to be tested. Testing them is what gives you character. If everybody was a bank clerk, then I would be a rebel. But if everyone was a rebel, then I promise you I would go out of my way to be a bank clerk."

Given this horror of the herd, Allen is understandably appalled by his recent media elevation to paragon saint of Lad Culture. "It's funny," he

says, mirthlessly, "because I'm referred to as 'the original lad' a lot of the time, like I'm some kind of role model. The idea of aspiring to that kind of **** is ludicrous."

When he's on a roll, Allen is terrific company, his conversation fast, fluent and bitterly funny. When he's bored or beleaguered, he regresses before your eyes, intoning "I dunno"

like a bolshie teenager. Consequently, you find yourself quizzing him strictly on his "direction in life". Will he concentrate on acting or return to comedy? What about writing? (he has long promised a "pop-up autobiography").

"I remember Damien Hirst saying that it is better to be very good at something than to be the best," says Allen, who is at pains to make it clear that, despite his friendship with

Hirst (he is godfather to the artist's son), he "has no interest whatsoever in art".

"If you're superlatively good at one thing, you'll never try another. I used to think that maybe the reason for my being jack of all trades and master of none was a fear of failure. Now," he concludes, with a straightening of the shoulders and an adult gaze, "I'm certain that's not the case."

● *Born to Run* is on BBC1, Sundays at 9.35pm.

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THE TIMES

FOOTBALL
The fight for the Premiership, Sheffield Wednesday, Crystal Palace in the play-offs

GOLF
The final day of the Volvo PGA tournament.

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

FEATURE
How to teach your children to be better behaved.

ARTS
A review of the Tribal Gathering music festival and the Jazz Festival from Bath.

CHANGING TIMES

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS

The female succession: Naomi Wolf reviews *A Century of Women*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



VISUAL ART

The Bath Festival celebrates the eye-catching work of Flemish artist Jan Fabre
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

At Birmingham Rep Janet Suzman sets *The Cherry Orchard* in present-day South Africa
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

Roaring tunes with attitude from the fast-rising Foo Fighters at the Astoria
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

I have been argued that among the many revolutions of the 20th century the most lasting will be that which saw the world's population move decisively away from the land. Humankind is everywhere, racing faster to the cities, while the movement in the other direction is the merest of trickles. After 10,000 years as agriculturalists, our species has made the city its preferred location.

George Ewart Evans, an oral historian I greatly admire, wrote in the 1930s: "A way of life that has come down to us from the Age of Virgil has suddenly ended. A whole culture that had preserved its continuity from earliest times has now recorded its quietus."

One aspect which interests me is the impact this could be having on art and especially on literature. Since Hesiod, nine centuries before Christ, it has fed fruitfully on the countryside as a setting, a source of metaphors and a locus for our lives. Our natural contacts. Where is that "natural" now? For

The countryside is just a distant memory

as we have left the countryside, so the countryside as we have known it is leaving us. It is now, and not only in developed countries, largely a place for agri-business — in other words, a factory.

In a recent issue of *The Times Literary Supplement* David Craig wrote that "97 per cent of our meadow land has gone since the war: (500,000 miles of hedgerows at 11,000 miles a year: 880,000 jobs ... in the past quarter-century, three-quarters of the song thrushes have gone and more than half the lapwings, skylarks and linards ... fertilisers, weed-killers and herbicides" now dictate the shape, scent and variety (lack of) of our countryside.

It is often said that the countryside has moved to the suburbs and Hampstead is better for ornithologists than Hampshire. But that is almost beside the point. There is

always the danger of nostalgia and it is true that many thought that the real countryside began to disappear in the 1820s and 1830s (the period Hardy wrote about). In 1809 John Clare lamented a disappearing world, and 40 years previously Oliver Goldsmith's *The Deserted Village* did the same for yet another receding golden age. But few would dispute that now we are in a different world.

In the mid-18th century in this country the population became greater in the cities than on the land. Perhaps significantly, a year after the publication of *The Deserted Village*, our greatest poet of nature, Wordsworth, was born. His whole work can be seen as a heroic act of reclamation. But, though he found morality and natural law and pantheism in the countryside, even for him it was not the necessity it once had been.

MELVYN BRAGG



It is probably worth putting down a few lines to show how confident Wordsworth was. These, from *Tintern Abbey*, on a return visit with his sister Dorothy, where he rejoices in the place and the

impact the place has on his mind:

Once again
Do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs
That on a wild secluded scene
Impress
Thoughts of more deep seclusion; and connect
The landscape with the quiet of the sky.

Who can find a quiet sky in Britain today? Who can, in that sense, connect? And am I in a minority, perhaps of one, in thinking that the difficulty and the erosion of that connection could have and perhaps is having deep disruptive effects?

Wordsworth's influence is still there, and in my own work I respect it — just as my own background in a small market town still felt resonance from the older England. But the question is:

has the countryside stopped feeding our imagination, just as it has drifted out of our collective life?

Who now could write with the confidence of D.H. Lawrence in the First World War: "They felt the rush of the sap in the wave which cannot halt but every year throws forward the seed to beget, and, falling back, leaves the young born on the earth. They knew the intercourse between heaven and earth, sunshine drawn into the breast and bowels, the rain sucked up in the daytime, nakedness that comes under the wind in autumn, showing the birds' nest no longer worth hiding."

There is a bond there which talks of a world assumed to be known to everyone. Who could say that such a bond still exists? And if

it is gone, what are the consequences? One consequence is that to read Hardy is to enter a foreign country. Not only is the dialect blinder than a foreign language to young readers; the customs, the buildings and locations are off the radar. I suspect, for most people under 25.

There is, of course, the argument that the old nature is now replaced by the new nature of science — some would say a deeper understanding of nature. Science fiction thrives just as city novels flourish and perhaps, like classical allusion, nature will simply accept a meek place way down the list in the imaginative hierarchy.

I suspect, though, that what we would have lost will not be easily replaceable. The measure of ourselves, images of our minds, a sense of completeness — these are there to be experienced daily, if we found another way back to the place that technology drove us from. But nature, as we have known it in art for so long, is now in need of urgent attention.

OPERA: The Royal Opera revives Trevor Nunn's problematic Janáček staging. Plus, children to the fore at the Brighton Festival

Stirring human tragedy

The way that despite all its current difficulties the Royal Opera still manages to give performances of the quality of this *Katya* and the current *Elektra* is tribute to the extraordinary determination and resilience of what I suppose we have to call the workers on the shop floor. Management spirals off into ever more amateurish flights of fantasy, and the professionals simply get on with the job.

The only sadness about this revival is that Trevor Nunn has been too busy to supervise it. Once the focus, the concentration of his original direction is loosened, there is time to harbour doubts about some of the effects, especially the gauzy goings-on at the beginning and what, three years ago, seemed a stunning *coup de théâtre* at the end. Today they look a little *appliqué*, a little too "West End musical". And Maria Bjornson's first permanent set relies too much on careful lighting for last Friday's somewhat random

Katya Kabanova
Covent Garden

efforts to pass muster. But there are still wonderful things — especially the many moments of stillness — and a series of magnificent individual performances.

Above all, there is still Bernard Haitink. Now that Janáček is as much a repertory composer as Mozart and Wagner, we can acknowledge that there are as many ways of approaching him as there are in the case of those masters. There may be those who miss the asringency, the witness that a Mackerras, say, has brought to this music, but Haitink's spacious, unhurried lyricism is something quite unique and equally rewarding. He seems to be conducting *Katya* herself, her spiritual beauty, her heartfelt yearning, with a sense of personal identification just as strong as that which the composer felt for his most tender creation.



Eva Jenis (Katya) and Nadja Michael (Varvara) in a production blessed with magnificent individual performances

The string playing — so silken, so gentle — at her first entrance breaks your heart, and from then on it's uphill (or downhill, if you prefer) all the way. It is impossible to witness Haitink's unfolding of profound human tragedy without

being stirred to the depths of your soul. In Eva Jenis he has an ideal protagonist to work with. The Slovakian soprano is tiny, truly a woman in a child's body, rendering her almost unbearably vulnerable. With its indefinable Slavonic "tang", her voice may not be conventionally beautiful, but it is individual and highly expressive, and her soft singing could not be sweeter. Her body language is as expressive as

her voice, and she has the secret of turning *Katya's* suicide into an act of despair but of triumphant victory. Among those returning from 1994 is Eva Randová as Kabanicha. Often audiences cope with this mother-in-law from hell with nervous laughter at her sheer monstrosity, but you don't laugh at Randová: with her hooded eyes and thin-lipped smiles she freezes your blood. Keith Olsen repeats his brilliantly

acted Boris — *Katya's* well-meaning, fatally ineffectual lover — and Gwynne Howell is again the masochistic small-town tyrant. J. Patrick Rafferty and Timothy Robinson are new as Tichon and Kudrjas, both good. Nadja Michael, the new Varvara, is outstanding, her pearly mezzo and sparky demeanour ideally complementing Jenis's plangently introspective interpretation.

RODNEY MILNES

A touch of magic

THE British premiere of Lorenzo Ferrero's *La figlia del mago* brings heartwarming, operatic success to the Brighton Festival this year. Opera at the festival has become a hit-and-miss affair, performed in unsuitable venues to audiences who sometimes look as if they would rather be up the road at Glyndebourne. But everything came together at the Theatre Royal on Thursday: Ferrero's work enjoyed a strong staging and enthusiastic reception from an audience of mainly children, who gave a new meaning to the expression "chattering classes".

The Sorcerer's Daughter is a children's opera with much for even the most operationally jaded adults to enjoy. Marco Ravasi's witty libretto is inspired by some of the more improbable scenarios found in comic operas of the 18th and 19th centuries, with love between a prince and a princess thwarted at first by their cruel fathers, but restored through the intervention of magic.

Ferrero succeeds where most composers have failed: this concise, two-act work is one of the least patronising children's operas ever written. The score draws on conventional forms, but fills them with spiky tunes of unmistakable Italianate warmth. There are further "operatic" signposts, such as the Verdi-like accompaniments that give the King recognisable authority. Tantalising hints of well-known music are worked in, but nothing is mere pastiche.

La figlia del mago
Brighton

voices, with children taking minor roles and playing the chamber orchestra accompaniment. This production adopts a more grown-up approach, using adult players (conducted by Paul McGrath) and excellent dance students from Lewes Tertiary College.

The bass John Hall is vivid as the Sorcerer, getting the deliberately nonsensical text (English version by Mark Herman and Ronnie Apter) across with clarity. Talitha Theobald's soprano Princess, Philip Sheffield's tenor Prince and Richard Chew's baritone King all give lively performances. Rebecca Melis's taut production, in colourful cut-out designs by Sarah Ashpole and choreography by Anna Carlisle, is a model of its kind, filling the stage with fantasy and enchantment.

JOHN ALLISON



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POP: Boz Scaggs on a triumphant note at the Jazz Café

Perky return to roots

THERE is a neglected musical territory that lies between blues and rock'n'roll that they used to call R&B. Modern urban black music has hijacked the name for the clean, classy swing beats that now dominate the charts. Boz Scaggs offers us an increasingly rare taste of the real thing — dirier, bluesier and ultimately far more satisfying. Beginning with T-Bone Walker's classic *T-Bone Shuffle*

he gave a smouldering performance of many of the old R&B standards that make his new album, *Come On Home*, such a delight. His style at times recalls a wide-awake version of J.J. Cale but his range is far greater. He mixed the R&B tributes with several soulful classics of his own, including such 1970s hits as *Lowdown* and *Lido Shuffle*. When Scaggs's foray into sophisticated dancefloor grooves

turned him briefly into a platinum-selling pop star. Yet good as it was to hear them again, they sounded thin alongside the fluent power of honest and rootsy covers of Fats Domino's *Sick and Tired*, Earl King's *It All Went Down*, The Drifters and Bobby Blue Bland's *Ask Me 'Bout Nothin'* (*But The Blues*). On such material Scaggs really has come home, and his unflinching assurance was positively serene.

He was assisted by a superb nine-piece band that included Cornelius Bumpus on tenor sax, Bucket Baker on drums, Scott Plunkett on keyboards and Drew Zingg on guitar. The names may raise a laugh, but their playing was seriously awesome. Finest of all was a long, extended version of *Lean Me A Dime*, a slow 12-bar blues that moves up three gears at once halfway through as the horn section kicks in with a thunderingly soulful riff. It is now 26 years since Scaggs first recorded the song on his solo debut album. The original featured the late Duane Allman on guitar and the legendary Muscle Shoals rhythm section and is still regarded by many as Scaggs's finest moment. It was a tribute to his current band that the live version lost nothing in comparison. When they left the stage the entire crowd kept up its demand for an encore for over ten minutes.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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All the help Parliament prescribed

Alf Morris says entitlements for the disabled should not be eroded

Why were they all so ready to bust a gut standing for Parliament when you can change the law without being elected even to a parish council? That is what disabled people are asking as they reflect on the election and weigh the implications of a perverse recent ruling by the Law Lords.

The ruling allows local authorities to circumvent the statutory duty, imposed on them by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, to provide home care appropriate to the individual needs of Britain's 6.9 million disabled people. Spending decisions, not statutory duty, say the Law Lords, can now dictate whether or not they receive the services Parliament intended for them.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation says the ruling is having a "devastating" effect on community care. They cite its consequences for the elderly man in Gloucestershire whose right to the services for which he had been assessed, upheld by the Court of Appeal, has now been removed by the Law Lords. Michael Barry, aged 81, has had several heart attacks, is visually impaired and since fracturing his hip, has relied on a Zimmer frame to shuffle about his home as best he can. He lives alone.

Gloucestershire County Council's social services committee was asked to assess Mr Barry's entitlement to services under the Act. It decided, with scant risk of being charged with profligacy, that he needed a home-carer to call twice a week for shopping, a pension, laundry, cleaning, plus meals-on-wheels four days a week.

That was the help he was receiving until a cut of £2.5 million was made in the council's grant from central government, leaving it with "nowhere near enough to meet demand" for services. Along with 1,500 other disabled people in the county, Mr Barry was told that his needs could no longer be met.

The five Law Lords involved in the decision to back the council did so by a majority of three to two. But their decision does not dispose of what has now become a cause célèbre. Indeed, one organisation for disabled people has already said: "We are going to take this on to the Court of Human Rights. The Law Lords' ruling is not just tragic for some it will be fatal."

As the architect of the 1970 Act, I welcome their resolve. For while the Law Lords speculate about "what Parliament intended" at the time, as if Hansard were published in some indecipherable prehistoric language, no one who has read the parliamentary debates on that Bill could possibly think it was Parliament's intention that Mr Barry should be treated as inhumanely as he has been.

My principal concern, strongly backed on both sides of both Houses of Parliament throughout those proceedings, was to end once and for all a pot-luck system of help for disabled people that had more to do with where they lived

than the extent and urgency of their needs. But a reversion to that discredited system is precisely what the Law Lords' ruling will now achieve.

Only Lord Lloyd of Berwick's judgment showed any proper grasp of what Parliament intended, when he said: "Parliament cannot have intended that the standards and expectations for measuring the needs of the disabled in Bermondsey should differ from those in Belgrave Square." But he, unfortunately, was in the minority of two.

The Law Lords drew attention more than once to the Act's having been a Private Member's Bill. But what difference does that make to its status? Once a Private Member's Bill becomes law, it is as much an Act of Parliament as any Finance Act. To think otherwise is to bark not just up the wrong tree but in the wrong forest.

As something of a compulsive legislator, I now confide to the Law Lords that none of my output was more ably drafted than the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. This was due not least to help freely given to me on a voluntary basis by one of Whitehall's most senior and distinguished

It is not for the Law Lords to say that councils' cash limits come first

parliamentary draftsmen of the post-war years, now sadly deceased. His memory is demeaned by this judicial decision. Mixing questions of social rights with questions of cost has its dangers. Rights are about moral values and our vision of a just society. The questions of how we pay, what we provide and if it can be afforded are not for judges to determine, and must not be allowed to dilute or distort statute law on social rights won for the least fortunate of our fellow citizens. To leave councils to decide whether they are short of money, which is what the Law Lords ruling does, is to guarantee that in some areas less and less will be spent in an already gravely under-funded aspect of social policy. This is judge-made law, power without accountability at its worst.

My Conservative successors as minister for the disabled agreed with me that the services provided for under the Act are mandatory. Sir Hugh Rossi, for example, instructed Liverpool and Wandsworth councils to meet forthwith their statutory duties to hundreds of disabled people who were being kept in queues "waiting for resources to become available." Now the queues are back. More and more disabled people are being denied the help that Parliament intended them to have.

There was some criticism in the general election of a perceived lack of difference between the contestants. But here is an issue on which few would object if all parties in the new House were to speak with one voice to reassure millions of disabled people, who now distressed and fearful of the future, that the Act they call their own will be quickly restored to full effect.

The author was the first Minister for Disabled People.

With his present momentum, Tony Blair can do no wrong, but the trajectory won't always be upwards

Hero-leaders are like sky-rockets

William Rees-Mogg

his rise to power in the early 1930s that he felt "like a sleepwalker" who could make no mistake. His glory period lasted eight years, from 1933 until the invasion of Russia in 1941. Napoleon Bonaparte had a longer period of triumph, from 1799, when he became First Consul, to 1812, when he invaded Russia. There is a natural limit to these periods of heroic leadership, yet when they are in their early stages they are almost irresistible. They correspond to a deep public yearning for golden leadership. The heroic leader is a Jungian archetype.

Their careers have three stages. The first is the most individualist, in which the hero either creates his own party, like Caesar or Hitler, or succeeds to the leadership of an established party, like John F Kennedy or Tony Blair. The second stage, which often differs, is the one in which the leader takes his party to power. Two very different hero-leaders in British 20th-century history, Oswald Mosley and David Owen, failed at that stage. David Owen came much the closer of the two to succeeding, and can indeed be regarded as the Social Democratic precursor of Tony Blair. The third stage is power, when the hero-leader first demonstrates heroic government. That leads to a climactic victory, the Battle of Agincourt for Henry V, the Cuban crisis for Kennedy. Tony Blair has only just entered the third stage, and has yet to meet his dragon.

Yet Tony Blair has already achieved lift off. In one week he has received the almost sycophantic ap-

plause of his fellow European heads of government, the apostolic blessing of Margaret Thatcher, whose natural successor he has become, and the acceptance by the President of the United States of a symbolic attendance at a British Cabinet meeting. I think that no American President has ever before attended the Cabinet meeting of a foreign power. Roosevelt would not have done that for Churchill. Eisenhower would not have done it for Macmillan; perhaps Reagan would have done it for

during his campaign to symbolise that he is as much the heir of Thatcher and Churchill as of Attlee. He offers himself as the symbol of national unity: blue tie, purple backdrop, Union Jack. He understands the power of the aesthetic in public politics.

The nation gave him a great election victory; statistically, it was not quite as great a victory as it looked. Tony Blair in 1997 won fewer votes nationally than John Major in 1992, a fact of little importance now, but not quite to be forgotten. The nation now wants him to succeed, in the Thomas Carlyle spirit of heroes and hero-worship. The nation is not at all interested in opposition, nor even in recent criticism. Anatole Kalesky may well be right that the early economic decisions are blunders, but the nation is not listening. Tony Blair could get away with much greater blunders than those, even if they are blunders, because the nation is willing him forward.

The negative is no longer news. Labour ministers could take parcels full of fibres from the proprietor of Harrods; they could dance naked with their teenage mistresses on the dome of St Paul's; the nation would still, for the present, smile as on the antics of an indulged boy child. The politics of rational detail plagued the previous Government, but are no threat to this one.

How different Europe looks. The other major European politician, Chancellor Kohl, saw off Margaret

Thatcher and dominated Jacques Chirac, as surely as Bismarck overcame Napoleon III. Now Chancellor Kohl is the old man, approaching the end of his career, while Tony Blair is just at the start of his. A month ago, the British saw Europe as an arena in which they would always be defeated. That may still be true, for Germany is much more powerful than Britain. Yet now the British are starting to feel that they have the strongest leader in Europe, the young man, the hero-figure, the man of the future, the Prime Minister with the large majority. Both his freedom in terms of British opinion and his bargaining power in Europe are of a different order to anything enjoyed by his predecessors.

The Blair rocket will not always be rising in the sky. Like Thatcher, like Kohl, it will start to run out of fuel, the trajectory will level off, at last the rocket will plunge back to earth. Probably Tony Blair will win two terms in office; there is more to it than that. Yet this is his moment of greatest acceleration. The first three weeks have demonstrated that he is as adept as a dramatising government as he was at dramatising opposition. Perhaps in the future he will become bogged down in Europe, will fall out with Gordon Brown, will see unemployment rising, or will lose the confidence of the new class which voted for him. He will almost inevitably suffer from the hubris of heroes, even though he recognises that it is a danger to him.

Yet his greatest problem is that a hero has to do heroic deeds. With the largest majority for more than 60 years, and a golden image, he cannot justify himself by any humdrum level of success. He has to measure up to the hopes of the public, something that John F Kennedy never quite managed. Tony Blair faces the challenge, and perhaps ultimately the tragedy, of the great expectations he has himself aroused.

Just play along for now

The Tories must regroup, says Peter Riddell, but it is no time for fixed positions



A party that suffers a landslide defeat loses control over its future. In the language of markets, it becomes a price-taker rather than a price-maker. It no longer decides the agenda. That brutal lesson has yet to be understood by many Tory MPs. Of course, a defeated party should update its organisation and policy. But these are necessary, not sufficient, conditions. The timing of any Tory recovery will be primarily determined by Labour's record.

The Tories have suffered two previous landslide defeats this century, in 1906 and 1945. However, the May 1 rout was worse, since the Tory share of the vote was far lower. Ingenious attempts have been made to suggest that the result was not as bad as it looked because of the lowest turnout since 1935, and "temporary" Tory absences. But this is mostly wishful thinking. Many Labour supporters also stayed at home, and there was substantial direct switching from Tory to Labour. Moreover, the electoral system now helps Labour rather than the Tories. And by contrast with the late 1940s, the Tories will not have the benefit of a redistribution of constituency boundaries, which is reckoned by John Riddell, a leading historian of the 20th-century Tory party, to explain about a third of its gains in 1950.

Some common features have been present in all Tory recoveries. The prolific Anthony Seldon plans to follow his biography of John Major this autumn with a book on "How Tory Governments Arise". He lists six factors: a revived party organisation; a programme realigned with voter preferences; either a new or a reinvigorated party leader; a tired or

divided government; a sea-change in intellectual or popular opinion; and a record of demonstrable failure by the party in government. The balance has varied, and not all factors have been present on each occasion when the Tories have recovered, apart from a tired or divided government with a record of failure.

The identity of the Opposition leader has seldom been of critical importance — although admittedly this has changed in the age of television elections. Tory leaders have had a miserable time in opposition coping with a frustrated and sullen party, as Balfour found from 1906 until 1911, Baldwin in 1929-31, Sir Edward Heath in the late 1960s and Margaret Thatcher in the late 1970s. Neither Heath nor Thatcher were personally very popular on becoming Prime Minister. In the late 1940s,

even Churchill faced regular rumblings of criticism of him as an aloof and often absent leader, so that Eden had to take over the day-to-day running of the Opposition.

The key is to demonstrate that the party has learnt the lessons of defeat, has not become extreme and has changed, as Tony Blair has shown so successfully since 1994 with his emphasis on the newness of Labour. This involves both organisation and policy. The success of Lord Woolton as Tory chairman in the late 1940s was in making membership of the Tory party a normal part of middle-class life, especially for younger people. The peak Tory membership of 2.8 million in 1951-52 will never again be attained, because in face of

many other attractions political parties no longer fulfil the social function they did. Nonetheless, the Tories' membership of probably well below half a million is a recipe for continued decline, especially as it is ageing and is linked to a collapse in the party's local government base. The case for one member, one vote involvement in future leadership elections is not just to provide democratic legitimacy but also as an incentive to join.

Some Tory MPs are wary of Mandelsonisation, copying the glitz and gloss of Labour's Millbank Tower. But that misses the point. Labour's campaigning techniques were, for the first time, ahead of the Tories, but these would not have worked without the deeper changes: the rise in membership, self-discipline and the desire to win.

But perhaps the most important lesson is not to take premature positions when you have no control over the changing political landscape. In the 1940s, the Tories accepted the welfare state and control over utilities, but campaigned against further nationalisation and against pervasive state controls with the slogan "Set the People Free". Now, the Tories have understandable worries about devolution, but it is going to happen, certainly in Scotland and probably also in Wales. So taking a wholly negative attitude is risking political irrelevance. Instead, the Tories should prepare to take part in the elections for a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly, as well as for the new mayor of London — as part of their recovery. Similarly, the Tories would be foolish to say "never" to a single currency, when a decision to take part is likely to be taken by Labour. If monetary union succeeds, and Britain enters, there will be no mileage in calling for withdrawal. If it fails, then the Tories will benefit anyway.

One advantage that the Tories have now but lacked in 1906 and 1945 is that the new Government has broadly accepted the spending and tax framework that it inherited. The Tories can argue that only they can really control public spending and produce a competitive economy. Above all, the Tories have to be patient. As the historian Stuart Ball has written of the Tories' recovery in the late 1940s, "the changes in policy were mainly adjustments in emphasis and improvements of presentation, while most of the organisational reforms continued established trends. The Conservatives' return to office owed more to the problems of the Labour Government than to any action on their own part." Of course, the Tories might not have returned to office if they had failed to update their image and recruit a wider membership. There is plenty for the Tories to do now to make themselves an acceptable alternative (and several tempting paths for them to avoid, but their real opportunity will not come until the Blair Government starts making big mistakes.

Defenderess

STILL SET on upstaging her former husband, the Princess of Wales, is next month to visit Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a Hindu Temple in Neasden, north-west London, to which Prince Charles made a well-publicised visit last year. The Princess, who was compared to a Hindu Goddess by Nepalis after she visited a leprosy hos-

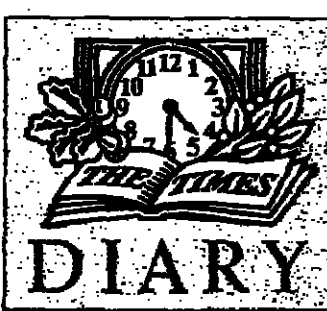
pital in Kathmandu, will spend an hour at the £12 million temple, but will not attend a service. Like Prince Charles, she will be garlanded with pink and white carnations by the chief priest, and will have a red powder circle — the mark of faith — painted on her forehead. But whereas the Prince was greeted by some 5,000 well-

wishers in the Prayer Hall, Diana's audience will be noticeably smaller. "She is coming at 11am, so most people will be busy at work," says an official. "We are only expecting about 400 people." By way of consolation, she will be given a plastic model of the temple to take home.

Two of our most formidable female barristers are to appear in court against each other in a battle over employment rights at Lambeth Council. In one corner, fighting on behalf of the council, will be Cherie Booth, QC; in the other will be Presley Bawendale, QC, the elegant inquisitor of the Scott inquiry. Although the case concerns the reorganisation of special teaching units, the public benches are expected to be packed.

Inconvenient

SANITARY problems are threatening to undo a sit-in by the National Federation of Cypriots outside the Turkish Embassy. The protest spot on the pavement in Belgrave has been manned around the clock for 275 days by protesters demanding Turkish withdrawal from Cyprus. They have a van stocked with raincoats, biscuits and orange juice, and a brazer to boil their tea.



But when they tried to put up a £3,500 portable lavatory, Westminster Council's patience snapped: "They told us that we would need a licence for it and that it was unsuitable for the area," says Federation Secretary, Andreas Karaolis. "The nearest facilities are half a mile away in Victoria Station."

Westminster Council is adamant: "Why should we grant permission for an ugly loo when people have to wait years for permission to erect a small statue?"

Numbers up

THE SHEER number of inexperienced Labour MPs may lead to the introduction of electronic voting in the House of Commons. The new and bewildered Members have no

idea of form, and may need an easier system than going through the lobbies. "No definite decisions have been made," says an official in the Sergeant-at-Arms office, "but long divisions may be a problem."

Electronic voting was suggested when the Chamber was rebuilt after the war, but was dropped when Members complained that it would rob them of a chinwag with other MPs. It was rejected again in 1958. This time round, opposition comes in the formidable form of Tony Benn. "It is a preposterous idea," he thunders. "People would press each other's buttons."

Vulgar intent

NOUVEAUX RICHES parents of Etonians have provoked outrage by planning to erect a two-tier marquee at the school on June 4, the annual speech day. Traditionally, families unpack picnics from the back of their cars on Agas Plough, one of the school playing fields, as their urchins play cricket and row. This year, a group known as the "Hong Kong Set" have decided to club together and splash out. A hundred guests will be invited to the marquee, where there will be a champagne reception upstairs and a seated luncheon downstairs. "The

sons are mortified," says a school official. "Usually, the worst a parent can do is to bring out a picnic-table or arrive in a Jaguar. God knows how they'll live this one down."

Pumped up

FRIENDS OF Laurie Lee are campaigning to honour him with a drinking fountain in Bangs' Corner at Westminster Abbey. The monument would be carved out of granite and dispense water from his

Abbey pumps. "The idea was Laurie's," says a friend. "I discussed it with him and promised to do something about it if he died before me."

Among those lending their support is the weighty writer John Mortimer. "Splendid," he says, "but older seems more appropriate than water." The Chapter House, however, is implacable: "It's a preposterous notion. People do not consume food and drink in the Abbey."

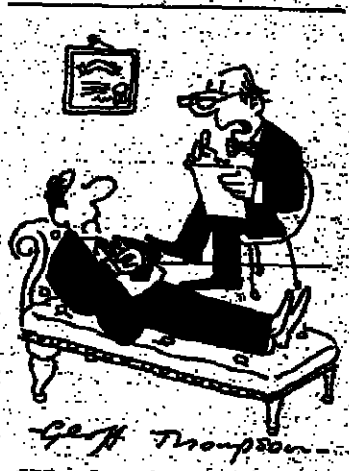
Wrong Guy

MYSTERY surrounds the identity of an amiable cove trawling the pubs around York claiming to be Sebastian Faulks, the author of *Bridging*. The impostor has been signing copies of novels by Faulks, to whom he bears a startling resemblance.

From a hostelry in the shadow of the minster, one publican said: "We were convinced it was him. He even started doing some writing in the pub." Faulks himself is at a complete loss. "I understand York is a lovely city," he observes. "But I've never actually visited it. I've no idea why anybody would start imitating me."



Diana follows in Charles's footsteps — to Neasden



How long have you felt the urge to be Tony leader?



A WORD IN HIS EAR

Blair takes notes from the Thatcher Guide to Europe

One of the cruellest traditions of the British political system is the immediacy with which a defeated administration is cleared out and a new one installed. There is no time for transition; no papers from the outgoing government remain to guide the next. This is government by blank sheet, a problem compounded when the new regime is staffed almost entirely by ministers with no experience of office.

So it is good news that Tony Blair felt able to cast aside old enmities and considerations of party competition to invite to 10 Downing Street his predecessor but one. In an hour-long discussion with Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister talked mainly about foreign affairs, receiving the benefit of Lady Thatcher's advice about negotiating in Europe.

Negotiation is a skill that can be transferred from one forum to another; which is why Mr Blair appointed Doug Henderson Minister for Europe. But what is singular to each confrontation are the personalities involved and the ways in which tactical alliances are forged. In these areas, Lady Thatcher has first-hand knowledge, drawn from many painful bargains. She could give Mr Blair a head-start, equipping him better for the critical EU summit in Amsterdam.

John Major, too, called in his predecessor but one, James Callaghan, soon after he took office. In his case, the previous Prime Minister was the one person from whom he could not take advice, lest she be accused of "back-seat driving". Mr Blair, too, would be unwise to draw counsel from Mr Major; he made exactly the mistake in Europe that Lady Thatcher warned against — opening negotiating battles that were impossible to win. On qualified majority voting and the beef ban, Mr Major talked tough, only to back down under pressure. His relations with his party and his European "partners" were never the same again.

Mr Blair is particularly in need of advice in these matters. Most Prime Ministers start out more interested in domestic policy,

tending to develop a taste for foreign affairs in their second term or even later. It is easily forgotten that even Lady Thatcher only became genuinely interested in "abroad" after winning her third election in 1987.

Before that, she was drawn into certain foreign difficulties, such as the Falklands War and Britain's budget negotiations in Europe. But Europe was otherwise virtually paralysed by what was known at the time as "Eurosclerosis", allowing Lady Thatcher to indulge her domestic passions for defeating the trade unions, privatising nationalised industries and trying to conquer inflation.

Mr Blair does not have the luxury of dedicating his first term to domestic affairs. Passionate as he may be about education or spending the proceeds of the windfall tax, he has to concentrate on next month's Amsterdam summit, in any number of areas of which he could be tripped up by heads of government more experienced and crafty than he. Next January, Britain takes over the presidency of the EU, and the Prime Minister will have to take the critical decision about whether to join economic and monetary union in the first wave.

It is not accidental, of course, that news of this "secret" meeting leaked to the press. As well as reassuring sceptics in Britain, the meeting is intended to give notice to the other EU governments that Mr Blair's lack of experience may not be exploitable to win concessions that would have been withheld by such veterans as Lady Thatcher.

The suggestion that the Prime Minister intends to pick her brains again is as promising as it is politically calculated. The message from Mr Blair is that he is prepared to listen; to reach out beyond the normal party boundaries; and not to be constrained by tribal protests from his own side. All these innovations are welcome. But the proof that her words have been heeded and acted upon will be apparent only if Mr Blair emerges from Amsterdam with a deal that matches Britain's national interests.

TIRED OF REVOLUTION

Disaffected Iranians turn in a massive protest vote

In the theocratic Islamic Republic of Iran, Muhammad Khatami, the cleric elected with 69 per cent of the popular vote to succeed President Rafsanjani in August, hardly ranks as an outsider. He has been actively involved with Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution ever since his days as a theological student in Qom, was for ten years minister for Islamic culture and guidance and ran on a platform of Islamic socialism. He would not have been able to run at all had he not passed muster with the powerful Council of Guardians, one of only four candidates in a field of 238.

Yet no one in Iran doubts that the result is a challenge to Iran's "supreme guide", Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the hidebound religious conservatism he represents. He had made no secret of his preference for Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the Speaker of the Majlis, Iran's Parliament; in earlier years that would have made Mr Nateq-Nouri's election a foregone conclusion. Instead, he scored a humiliating 25 per cent.

Listening to Mr Nateq-Nouri's Militant Clergy faction and Mr Khatami's Militant Clerics outbidding each other in militant Islamic anti-Western rhetoric, foreign ears may detect little to choose between them. But Iranians, more concerned by domestic battles, saw their first real choice since the 1979 revolution and turned out in force.

Mr Nateq-Nouri stood for even tougher policing of female dress codes and the rest of the dreary, intrusive and arbitrary restrictions of religious rule. Mr Khatami openly argues for greater personal freedoms, respect for the rule of law in place of the arbitrary exercise of power, women's rights

and decent jobs for the young unemployed. He united left-wing Islamic militants, technocrats and most women. Above all, Iranians can vote from age 15 and he won over the 40 per cent of the electorate too young to remember either the Shah or the revolution, for whom the religious establishment is incompetent, out of steam and out of step with the country's needs.

Iranians have voted for economic reform as well as ideological relaxation. They may get neither. The diehard majority in the Majlis has hastened to turn coat and declare support for Mr Khatami; but that is not the only obstacle to reform. Religion second-guesses politics in Iran and in a system of dual control so bizarre that it even includes a Council of Expediency to mediate between the politicians and the religious "Guardians", Mr Khatami has his hand on all the strongest levers. He is likely to use them against any Khatami reforms that threaten the clergy's substantial vested interests as ruthlessly as he has frustrated most of President Rafsanjani's cautious modernising gestures. As for foreign policy, that is controlled by the Supreme Security Council on which the President's voice is weak.

Power games at the top will therefore continue unresolved, at the expense of ordinary Iranians tired of revolution and even more exhausted by the strain of doing two or more jobs to make ends meet. As the diehards fight their corner, Iran may become still more intractably belligerent towards the outside world. The West may hope for better under Mr Khatami; but it should expect no early transformation of Iran into a country with which it can safely attempt to deal.

CRISIS IN THE KIRK

Scotland's Presbyterians should have faith in themselves

A preoccupation with internal reform is usually the sign of a body in decline. Of course, reform can be the precursor of renewal, but only if the institution preserves faith in itself. That, sadly, does not seem to be the case in Scotland, where the Kirk is considering reforming its internal structure to bring back bishops.

The suggestion that the Kirk should re-establish the episcopate comes from the minister charged with advancing ecumenicalism, the Rev Duncan McClements. With the traditional Scots preacher's gift for the arresting, if not in this case attractive, metaphor he argued, "There are issues in all churches that function like gallstones in the bile duct — whenever they make their presence felt, the patient suffers pain. For us Presbyterians, still stuck in the time warp of royal abuse of episcopacy in the 17th century, bishops are one such issue."

By suggesting that his opponents think with their bile duct and are stuck in the 17th century Mr McClements follows the fine tradition of temperate Scots debating celebrated on the eve of the Sabbath in many a public house. Support for the Presbyterian form of church government is neither irrational, nor anachronistic, and it is a pity that Mr McClements appears to think so little of his Church's traditions as to imply it. It is not the maintenance of traditions, but their constant questioning, which unsettles the faithful and has seen church-going decline. Scotland's attachment to Presbyterianism

reflects its people's democratic temper. The election of ministers and moderators, and the character of the church which results, has, over time, ensured the Kirk a higher level of attendance than its English sister. The country's 17th-century rejection of bishops was but part of a broader assertion of national character. Scotland's education system, literary culture and society are all shot through with democratic traditions. Scots recognise that rank is but the guinea stamp and the mired head is likely to be as muddled as any other.

Closer union between churches is desirable but the Kirk's character should not be sacrificed. There may be pastoral arguments for the episcopacy, but the Church cannot stand for eternal truth if it alters its traditions for administrative convenience. A belated conversion to episcopacy might lead some to conclude that bishops were legitimate throughout. The only converts such a stance might make would be to Rome.

Pluralism needs to be defended, in religion as much as politics. The character of the British people has been tempered by the strong voice of Protestant witness, from Reformation to Disruption and Cranmer to Macleod, as much as it has been enriched by Catholic tradition, whether Roman or Anglican. Presbyterianism is not central to Protestantism but it has ensured a valuable voice has remained strong. Whatever reform of government occurs in Scotland, the spirit of the Reformation should survive.

Need for clarity on defence exports

From Major-General Alan G. Sharnam, Director-General of the Defence Manufacturers Association

Sir, I fully endorse your leading article of May 14, "Horizon tour" (see also letters, May 19). The Government must move quickly to remove the uncertainty created by its foreign policy "mission statement" and be specific about its policy on defence export licensing.

The United Kingdom already has some of the most stringent defence export regulations in the world. Industry fully accepts these regulations, recognising that only the Government is in full possession of the facts necessary to make a judgment in these matters. The issues are invariably complex and include treaty obligations, regional relationships, economic factors and human rights considerations. The latter, too, require a judgment on whether they can best be influenced by working with a particular regime or against it. Thus government must decide.

However, business works on facts. At the earliest possible moment, and in full consultation with the DTI and the Ministry of Defence, the Government must declare whether it intends to add to the list of those countries for which it will not grant licences for the export of defence equipment.

The test case is, of course, Indonesia. Indonesia imports about £500 million of UK products and services a year, only 25 per cent of which are defence related. It is part of the close-knit Asean alliance with its partners Brunei, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, with some of whom the UK maintains direct defence treaty obligations.

These countries are within the most rapidly growing economic region in the world. Between them they import billions of pounds' worth of UK imports and account for tens of thousands of jobs in this country. A change in relationships with one or more of these countries may have far wider consequences than at first envisaged.

The previous Government positively encouraged defence exports to the Asean region and industry made plans and investments accordingly. Industry will, of course, respect any changes the new Government wants to make but it must be given early and specific advice as to whether or not the export licensing regulations are to be substantially amended.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SHARNAM,
Director-General,
Defence Manufacturers Association,
Marlborough House,
Grayshott, Surrey,
May 21.

Labour and hospitals

From Mrs Wendy Mead

Sir, "Health service funds should be spent on caring for old people and not old buildings," argues Mr Simon Carter (letter, May 21).

He should be reminded that at Bart's Hospital, for instance, the extensive internal and external restoration of an ancient building is costing millions and is resulting in first-class facilities for patient care. Lottery or health-service funding is not required, the costs being met by special trustees who administer the vast donations from benefactors for the preservation of Bart's, given over almost nine centuries.

The trustees release £10 million per annum, not just for the upkeep of the buildings but for state-of-the-art equipment, research and post-graduate teaching grants — at no cost to the taxpayer but of huge benefit to patients and the Treasury.

Yours faithfully,
WENDY MEAD,
Spokeswoman,
The Save Bart's Campaign,
PO Box 822, Aldersgate Street, EC1,
May 22.

Value of education

From Dr Avner Offer

Sir, Robert Skidelsky ("Farewell, welfare now what?", May 21) argues that education should be financed by user charges, because that increases freedom and choice. Perhaps, but it is not as likely to improve standards as he expects.

For parents, the choice is between their own consumption now, and benefits to offspring many years hence. For all but the well-off, virtue is not an easy path. At lower incomes, pressing needs are greater, and the deferred benefits of education less compelling.

Families already invest heavily in children, and are not as stable and secure as they used to be. Consumers will choose less education than children and society require. That is why education is everywhere subsidised from taxes.

Yours sincerely,
AVNER OFFER
(Reader in Recent Social and Economic History),
Nuffield College, Oxford,
May 21.

Sport letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Early evidence of the Holocaust

From Professor William D. Rubinstein

Sir, It would be quite wrong to derive the impression that documents released this week by the Public Record Office provide evidence that the Holocaust began earlier than was previously believed (reports, May 19 and 20).

All standard histories of the Nazis' mass murders of the Jews correctly state that they began with the German invasion of the USSR in June 1941. Martin Gilbert's *Atlas of the Holocaust* contains dozens of maps detailing these killings on a village-by-village basis.

Any suggestion that the killings in the Soviet Union were unknown in the West would be similarly false. On the contrary, these killings received widespread press publicity throughout the world, including the whole British press, within a few months of the German invasion. By September-October 1941 the killings were reported in Jewish underground newspapers published in the Warsaw ghetto, although the ghetto had been sealed from outside contact for a year.

A third and equally false impression exists that Winston Churchill and other Western leaders could have inferred from these early reports that Hitler had in mind killing every Jew in Nazi-occupied Europe. In fact, the

process did not spread from the Soviet Union to other parts of Europe until after the Wannsee conference of Nazi leaders, in January 1942, and apart from those in the USSR there were no mass killings of Jews by the Nazis in Europe until 1942, six months after the British Government became aware of those in Russia.

Finally, it is still widely believed that with knowledge of the Nazi intentions Churchill and the British could have done something to deter or prevent the "final solution". That too is false.

In mid-1941 Britain had been fighting alone for over a year and still faced every likelihood of a German invasion. It had no troops within 1,500 miles of the western Soviet Union and no planes capable of reaching past Berlin, let alone to the Ukraine or Belarus.

Tragically, the only accurate answer to the question "What could the British have done in 1941 to prevent the Holocaust?" is nothing.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM D. RUBINSTEIN
(Professor of Modern History),
University of Wales,
Department of History and
Welsh History,
Hugh Owen Building,
Aberystwyth, Penglais, Ceredigion,
May 21.

Legion membership

From Mrs J. E. Campbell

Sir, I have been interested to read your correspondence on the need to expand the role and membership of the Royal British Legion (letters, May 14 and 19).

A motion that those who served in the Women's Land Army should be allowed to join the Legion as ordinary members was proposed and readily accepted at the RBL's northern conference last November. It was put forward to be discussed at the Legion's annual conference next weekend, and printed in the provisional agenda for the annual conference, along with 23 different motions from other branches around the country. We have now learned, to our dismay, that only the four motions proposed by the Legion's national council have been accepted for discussion.

There are many valid reasons why the Women's Land Army — which was finally disbanded in 1953 — should be accepted for membership: not least the fact that in two world wars, by rectifying an agricultural policy in shambles, it rescued Britain and her fighting forces from starvation. But no progress can be made

whilst the Legion's national council adopts such a closed-shop policy.

Yours etc,
JACKIE CAMPBELL
(Member, Royal British Legion),
Boxtree, Thornton Dale,
Nr Pickering, North Yorkshire,
May 19.

From Mr Warwick H. Taylor

Sir, As an ex-Bevin Boy, I thoroughly endorse Lord Lewin's view (letter, May 19) that wartime Bevin Boys should be represented at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall and in the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

We received official recognition from the Government in 1995 when we were part of the official VE- and VJ-Day commemorations, and feel that it is now perhaps a little churlish still not to be recognised by the Royal British Legion.

Yours faithfully,
WARWICK H. TAYLOR
(Archivist,
The Bevin Boys Association),
Pilgrims Cottage,
7a Abbey Street, Cerne Abbas, Dorset,
May 20.

Funding the Tube

From the Director of Transport and Planning of London First

Sir, Your leading article, "Labour Underground" (May 17), is right to highlight the urgent need to tackle the drastic underfunding of London's Tube network. Delayed, overcrowded and cancelled services have become a regular feature of the 2.3 million journeys (not 23 million as your leader had it) taken every day.

However, the three possible solutions you put forward of extra public money, privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative, do not occupy watertight compartments. A problem as complex as the underfunding of London's Tube to the tune of £1.2 billion over the past 40 years would necessarily need to draw on elements of each.

What is clear is that public money is required immediately to undo the damage caused by cuts to the network in the last Budget. With that pumping in place, attention can focus on how to mobilise private-sector investment to get money flowing back into London's Underground.

As a group campaigning on behalf of business in the capital, London First is now working on how to structure a new basis for financing transport in this city. We hope to publish our proposals shortly.

In the process, sacred cows such as the distinction between the public and private sectors and Treasury opposition to ring-fencing tax revenues for specific purposes may have to be dealt with. Old orthodoxies will have to be

discarded if government and business are to forge a new partnership for funding London's infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,
IRVING YASS,
Director, Transport and Planning,
London First,
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1,
May 20.

From Mr David Briginshaw

Sir, You are correct to say that the Tube carries more passengers per day than the national rail network, but of course passengers on the national network travel much further per journey than their counterparts on the Underground. In 1995-96, passenger-km on the national network totalled 29,215 million compared with only 6,337 million passenger-km on London Underground. This is a more meaningful comparison of how productive the two networks are.

The idea of a London levy to pay for transport infrastructure could work well. A similar system in Paris, a levy on businesses in the French capital, has produced an excellent rail network. If London had had such a scheme then CrossRail and London Underground's planned Hackney-Chelsea line would have been built many years ago, and we would now be discussing how to fine-tune the network.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRIGINSHAW
(Associate Editor),
International Railway Journal,
PO Box 8, Falmouth, Cornwall,
May 19.

— over 85 per cent of the construction contracts are now let or tendered at today's prices — and on programme for completion by December 1999 as scheduled. Russell Street and Bow Street will not be "desecrated", as Mr Hamilton claims. The site was occupied by a car park, some unlisted buildings and a temporary cafeteria.

Already rising in their place is the Royal Ballet's first permanent home, including decent rehearsal rooms, a studio theatre for new choreography, small-scale opera, education and outreach work, new public spaces including the restored Victorian Floral Hall and the completion of the Covent Garden Piazza to Inigo Jones's original concept.

All of this will contribute immensely to the life of the community both locally and nationally. Surely a cause for celebration, not condemnation.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN DUFFIELD, Chairman,
Royal Opera House Trust and
Development Appeal,
Covent Garden, WC2,
May 22.

Blue football fan could be in the red

From His Honour Judge Ian Trigger

Sir, Your main front-page photograph today shows an apparently distraught lady from Wrexham lamenting the retirement of the Manchester United footballer, Eric Cantona.

New season she could derive considerable consolation from transferring her allegiance to her local football team at the Racecourse Ground. She could mingle amongst the hume supporters still sporting her red shirt without feeling any discomfort. She would not have the travel crisis to Manchester and could discover the joy of watching football at grass-roots level without the exorbitant cost of attending a match at Old Trafford.

And if she should miss the chant of "Ooh aah Cantona" we would willingly teach her the proper syntax of "Brian Flynn's red and white army" and "Joey, Joey, tell us the score", thus paying proper tribute to the honest and long-serving management team in place at Wrexham.

Yours faithfully,
IAN J. C. TRIGGER,
Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts,
Liverpool,
May 19.

Ban on 'Crash'

From His Honour Judge Keith McHale

Sir, The overruling by Westminster Council of the film board's classification for *Crash* is not, as you report (May 21), the first example of the exercise of a power.

In 1980, the 1980s the council overruled the film board by giving a "U" certificate to a film about a naturist camp — probably because the nudes had their backs to the camera or carried something strategically placed.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH McHALE,
Oak Lodge,
141 Albemarle Road,
Beckenham, Kent,
May 22.

Sibling rivalry

From Professor Emeritus C. R. Bowden

Sir, The arguments for the advantages or disadvantages of being an only child ("Solos who made it big", Weekend, May 17) might be more convincing if Genghis Khan were excluded from your list.

Genghis is recorded as having had three blood-brothers and two half-brothers. He did, though, have a quick way with sibling rivals. Mongolian chronicles tell how he and his brother Khasar, as young lads, murdered their half-brother Begter, complaining that the latter had stolen the fish and birds they had caught.

This family discord naturally upset their mother, but did not impede Genghis's rise to fame.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BOWDEN,
19 Richings Way,
Iver, Buckinghamshire,
May 17.

Busy beasts

From Mr Douglas Jackson

Sir, Your Diary story today ("Among roses") conjures up a delicious image of downtown Los Angeles, where supermodel Linda Evangelista is struggling to grow a British garden — alas, in vain.

The streets are filled with people rushing around doing errands. Every time one of these golfers passes Ms Evangelista's garden it pops over the wall and snaffles one of her 160 roses. Soon they are eaten, every one.

Meanwhile, I suppose, the gophers go hungry.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS JACKSON,
79 Mountside Crescent,
Prestwich, Manchester,
May 21.

'Re-branding' Britain

From Professor Ian Hindmarch

Sir, If the suggestion (report, May 19; letters, May 21) to remove "Great Britain" were to be followed for country identification plates on cars, then we would all become indistinguishable from "The Belgians". Surely, this could not be allowed in happen.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HINDMARCH,
University of Surrey,
Human Psychopharmacology
Research Unit,
Milford Hospital,
Godalming, Surrey,
May 21.

European viewpoint

From Professor Alec Eien

Sir, I was surprised and disappointed that your report today on the EU summit did not feature a photograph of Tony Blair sitting on Chancellor Kohl's lap.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EIDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon,
May 24.

OBITUARIES

EDMUND FROW

Edmund Frow, founder of the Working Class Movement Library and Museum in Salford, died on May 15 aged 90. He was born on June 5, 1906.

As an engineer and trade union activist, Edmund Frow was dedicated to the struggle for workers' rights both on the streets and on the shopfloor. However, it is not so much for his militancy and moral stamina that he will be remembered as for the Working Class Movement Library which he founded — the result of some 40 years spent collecting the literature of the Labour movement in Britain.

Frow was an autodidact. His passion for collecting books began as "an insidious disease" but was to result eventually in the establishment of a valuable archive of working-class history. He and his wife — a schoolteacher — would spend their holidays scouring the country in search of first editions, union minute books and union banners and documents, mostly to do with the labour and socialist movement of the last century.

They toured the country in a 1937 Morris van, stopping whenever they found themselves conveniently near a town, camping on verges and in fields. "In the morning," his wife recalled, "when we were fresh and full of energy, we combed the shelves of unsuspecting booksellers. In the afternoon we lay in the sun, reading and gazing over our morning purchases. In the evening we walked, or possibly moved on to another bookshop. And when all our money had gone, or when the van was full, we returned to Manchester."

The rooms — even the bedrooms — of their semi-detached home near Manchester United's ground in Old Trafford were stacked with volumes. Coachloads of visitors came from Labour parties and trade unions to be shown round. In 1973 the North West Labour History group was formed and its committee meetings were held in the house.

Then, ten years ago, Salford City Council took over the

library. It was rehoused in Jubilee House, a magnificent spacious building by the university and the Lowry art collection. The Frows were given a flat upstairs so that they could continue their close involvement with the collection. Today visitors come from all over the world to see the remarkable collection of books, documents and union memorabilia.

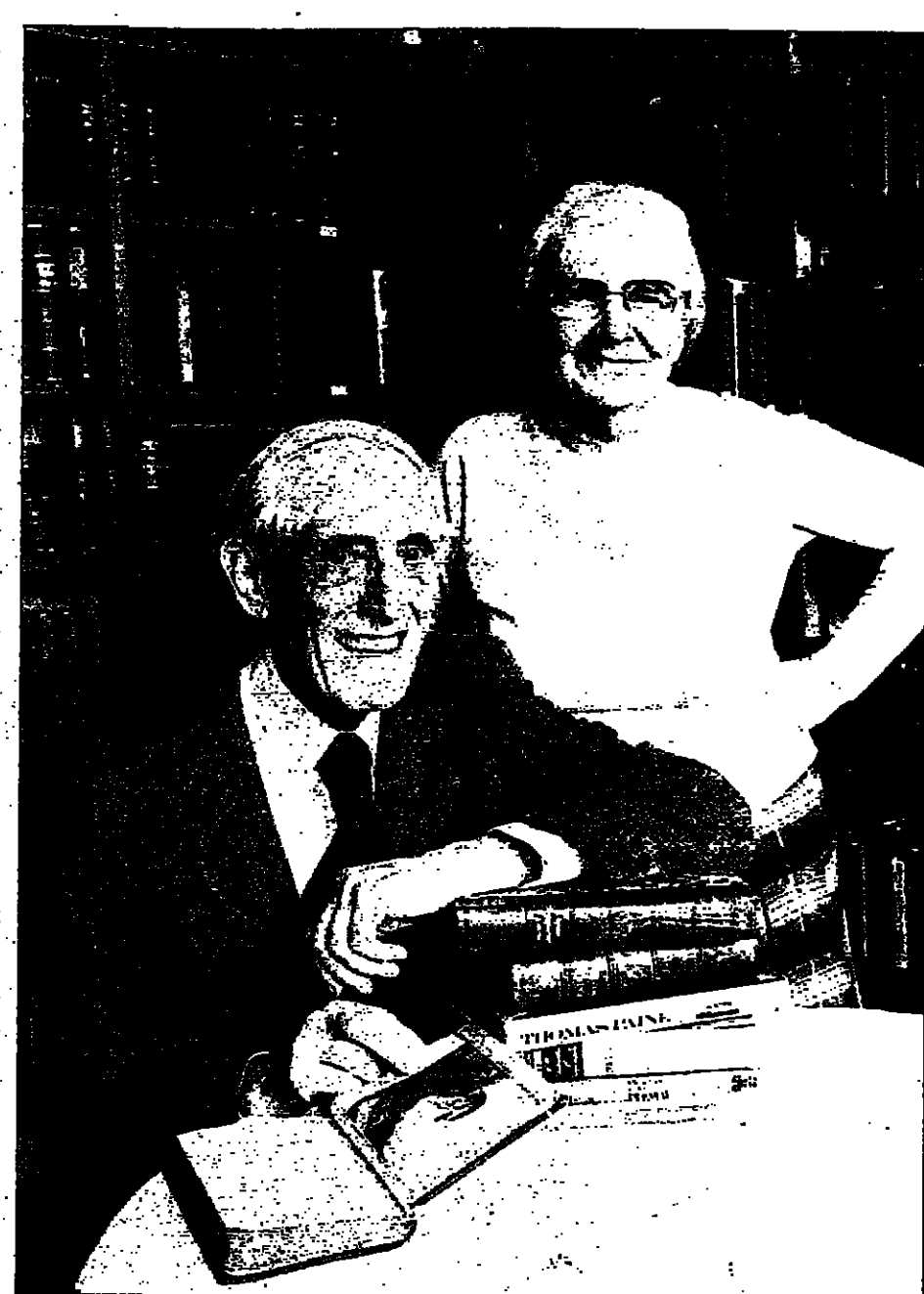
Stephen Edmund Frow was born into a farming family in Lincolnshire where his father tenanted a modest 18 acres. He left school at 14 and, after a year's industrial training course, began work as an apprentice in the drawing office of an engineering firm. He was to become a skilled engineer, reputed by his colleagues to have the finest kit of tools of any man in the industry.

In 1924 he joined the Communist Party and when Frow decided that he ought to show his solidarity with the 1926 General Strike, although the engineers were not called out, he lost his job. Eventually, however, he finished his apprenticeship as a turner. But after working for two years in an engineering tool-room in Liverpool, he found himself unemployed from 1929 to 1933.

British industry had gone into a slump after the 1929 Wall Street crash. Many more than the official figure of 2.6 million were actually unemployed. In 1931 the Government introduced the means test and cut the weekly dole for a single man from 18 shillings to 15 shillings and three pence.

Frow, living in Salford, had become a prominent figure in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement. When, on October 1, 1931, there was a march by 10,000 workers through the streets of Salford to the Town Hall in Beley Square to put the case of the unemployed to the council, Frow was there. The police met the demonstration with a baton charge in which many were injured and had to be taken to hospital.

Frow himself had his nose broken in the encounter, which became known as "the Battle of Beley Square". He was arrested, and, after defending himself in court, was



Edmund and Ruth Frow in their Working Class Movement Library in Salford

imprisoned in Strangeways for almost six months. Walter Greenwood, a Salford councillor at that time, based one of the characters in his *Love on the Dole* on Frow.

With an improvement in the British economy, Frow found work again. In the next 20 years he was to estimate that he held some 30 jobs, working at different times with such

companies as Ferranti, AV Roe and Gardner. In each he served as either shop steward or shop stewards' convenor. He was elected to the Amalgamated Engineering Union's national committee and later became the secretary for the AEU's powerful Manchester district committee.

Frow had met his wife Ruth at a meeting in Hastings. When she had invited him over to look at her book collection he had commented, apparently, "your books and mine are complementary", and from that moment on had wooed her avidly. Before a week was out they had decided to marry. The partnership lasted more than 50 years.

pamphlets and articles, mainly about the lives of ordinary working people and their leaders, including *Radical and Red Poetry*, *The Politics of Hope* and *Chartism in Manchester and Salford*. Frow was the researcher for these works and Ruth was the writer.

From its inception in the 1930s they enthusiastically supported the Left Book Club, founded by Professor Harold Laski, the publisher Victor Gollancz and the then Communist but future Labour Cabinet Minister John Strachey. Frow regularly sold copies of its "book of the month" — costing half a crown — to fellow workers, many of whom had never bought a book in their lives.

Frow claimed that the Left Book Club involved both industrial workers and liberal-minded members of the middle class, especially during the time that it assisted the Republican cause in Spain. Although some dismissed it as just a middle-class affair, Frow always maintained it had great influence on the factory floor. He recalled how on one occasion when, after addressing a midnight meeting with the night-shift in a Manchester factory, he was walked down the aisle by a burly engineer who proudly opened a cupboard to reveal row upon row of Left Book Club books.

In 1987 Frow's personal book collection was taken into municipal control by Salford City Council. It continues to add to its resources and now includes the oldest trade union archive known: that of the Brushmakers of the mid-18th century. Both Frow and his wife were awarded honorary degrees by Salford University and by the University of Central Lancashire. Recently the library received £200,000 from national lottery funds to develop its work.

In his spare time Frow enjoyed long walks in the country. Even when he was nearly 90, he and his wife could still walk ten miles a day in the Welsh Mountains where they owned a caravan for many years.

He is survived by his wife Ruth and by their son.

PETER CREIGHTMORE

Peter Creightmore, a Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1975-96, died on May 15 aged 69. He was born on January 15, 1928.

briefly for a pharmaceutical firm before deciding to read for the Bar, being called by the Inner Temple in 1954. He was also commissioned in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Although Creightmore had built up a successful practice on the Oxford and Midland Circuit, he decided in 1975 against taking silk and instead accepted an appointment as a Master of the Queen's Bench. His aptitude for mastering detail and his patience made him seem especially well suited to the work, which entails the preparation of High Court cases before they come to trial in open court.



Creightmore was still better known, however, for his great kindness and unfailing courtesy both to litigants and to the junior Bar. Never fearful of puncturing pomposity, he once interrupted an eminent QC in full flow to remind him that he should first find a chair for his young female opponent.

His outside interests perhaps reflected the same qualities. These included cricket, the English countryside and music, especially Bach. While at Oxford he joined the university's first choir and in later years took great pleasure in his Sussex home.

He suffered from diabetes and had been in poor health for some time — particularly since his brother's death, which affected him deeply two years ago. He finally retired for health reasons last December.

Peter Creightmore married his wife June 40 years ago. She survives him, together with a son and daughter.

PROFESSOR JAMES SCOTT

Professor James Scott, CBE, former regional medical officer for Trent Regional Health Authority, died of pulmonary tuberculosis on May 7 aged 65. He was born on July 3, 1931.

IN A life dedicated to the provision of better health care, James Scott worked in the National Health Service for 33 years, for the last 15 of these as regional medical officer for Trent. He was an energetic and inspiring leader.

He remained resolute and level-headed in the face of frequent reorganisations within the NHS, keeping always on his desk a quote from Petronius: "I was to learn later in life that one tried to meet any new situation by reorganisation, and a wonderful method it can be for creating an illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation."

James Alexander Scott was born into a medical family and educated at Doncaster Grammar School and Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained degrees as Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics.

Although a pathologist by training, he was lured into medical administration by the glittering promises of Enoch Powell's *A Hospital Plan for England and Wales*, published in 1962. However, he did complete his doctorate in medicine on the detection and significance of melanoguria in 1965.

His first role as a medical

administrator involved him in the task of establishing the first new medical school in Britain this century, at Nottingham. He was also engaged in the planning of the second new medical school at Leicester and in the provision of additional clinical teaching facilities for the expanding Sheffield University Medical School.



In 1971, aged 39, he was the youngest appointee to the post of senior administrative medical officer for the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. This board was to become, two years later, the Trent Regional Health Authority, and Scott was appointed its first regional medical officer.

Under his administration he transformed the provision of health care within Trent region, lifting it from the bottom to the top of the league tables. Dialysis and transplantation units were established at Sheffield, Nottingham and Leicester together with peripheral dialysis units at Derby and Lincoln.

Nor were his professional interests confined to the locality in which he worked. He was appointed to a number of national committees and from 1972 to 1980 he served as the British representative on the hospital committee of the European Union and in 1981 and 1983 was elected to three-year presidencies of this committee. He was a Europhil and could speak French, German and Italian.

His final task was to assist his Trent colleagues in launching the region's breast screening programme. He followed this project through to completion, despite the illness which forced him into early retirement.

Even in retirement he continued to work for the NHS, notably in the appeals unit and as chairman of the Mid-Trent College of Nursing and Midwifery. He also established the Trent Medal — an annual award for excellence in the field of health care.

In 1974 he was made Special Professor of Health Care Planning at the University of Nottingham. He was appointed CBE in 1985 and also, in that same year, was made a member of the Royal College of Physicians. From 1980 to 1983 he was an Honorary Physician to the Queen.

Outside work he enjoyed stamp collecting, reading and doing *The Times* crossword. In his latter years he renovated a 17th-century cottage in the Dordogne.

James Scott is survived by his wife Margaret and by a son and two daughters.

Professor John Hemmings, French scholar, died on May 9 aged 76. He was born on December 13, 1920.

JOHN HEMMINGS was one of the most influential scholars of French of his generation. In the 1950s he was one of the first English-speaking academics to work on newly accessible manuscripts and produce substantial work on Emile Zola. He soon came to be acknowledged as a leading authority on literature and culture in 19th-century France, continuing to enhance this reputation by publishing important volumes until shortly before his death.

Fredrick William John Hemmings was born in Southampton, where his father, a headmaster, encouraged his interest in France from an early age. He took a First in French and German at Exeter College, Oxford, in 1941. After basic infantry training for the Army Intelligence Corps, he was posted to Blenheim Park for the remainder of the Second World War, being involved in deciphering communications traffic between German SS Army headquarters and Army Corps. Security was tight and only later did he learn that he had contributed to the work on Enigma.

Appointed as assistant lecturer in French at the University College of Leicester in 1948, he went on, in his 37-year career there, to play a significant part in the processes by which the institution expanded

ed nearly tenfold and became an independent university. He was briefly the first non-professional Dean of Arts in 1963, before becoming the first holder of a personal chair at the University.

Having spent the 1966-67 session at Yale, it was with some reluctance that, in the middle of a particularly fertile research period, he took on the headship of French at Leicester in 1970. During a nine-year spell of imaginative leadership, he considerably broadened the base of undergraduate programmes and encouraged the development of many academic careers.

His first publication, building upon his earlier learning of Russian and his Oxford D.Phil. was *The Russian Novel in France, 1884-1914*, issued in 1950. It was followed by his *Emile Zola* (1953), a critical study which did much to establish his reputation and was extensively updated in 1966. His eleven further books included a life of Zola (1977) and monographs on Stendhal (1964), Balzac (1967), *Dumas père* (1979), and Baudelaire (1982).

His work on individual authors led him into the study of movements and socio-cultural phenomena in general, and he went on to write two considerable volumes, *Culture and Society in France, 1870-1905* and *France 1789-1848* and 1848-1898. In his retirement he turned to the relatively unexplored territory of the theatre world in 19th-century France, bringing out, in addition to a series of articles, *The*



Theatre in 19th-Century France (1993) and *Theatre and Society in France 1789-1905* (1994). Work on a third volume concerning the theatre was nearing completion when his health began to fail at the end of 1996.

His devotion to his own

specialist research was unswerving, but this never stood in the way of other, broader types of commitment to the academic world and its values. For two years in the 1960s he regularly reviewed current English fiction for the *New Statesman*, and in 1966 he

helped to bring to England one of the first intellectuals to be permitted to leave the Soviet Union, Valery Tarsis — an event that attracted extensive publicity.

In the 1970s and early 1980s he made a number of trips to Canada, to advise on the setting up of a centre for Naturalist Studies and on the publication of a series of French-Canadian texts. He always took great pleasure in his contact with students in Leicester, collaborating with them for a number of years in the production of French plays and teaching even the least gifted with inexhaustible patience and kindness.

He was a softly-spoken, deeply modest man, who inspired enormous respect and lasting affection in most of his undergraduates, postgraduates and colleagues. His quiet competence in university administration was arguably greater than that of many who actively seek out such responsibilities, and his humanity in carrying out all of his duties exemplary. He looked upon the expansion of university provision without hostility, but also without illusions. In his total devotion to his subject and to quality in intellectual endeavour, as well as in his unselfishness and his ability to keep the extraneous and the secondary in perspective, he represented much that risks disappearing from British academic life.

He is survived by his second wife, Margaret, a daughter and a son from his first marriage.

John Sykes Rymmer, of Driffield, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £11,391,770 net.

Leslie Henry Gardwaite, of London SW7, left estate valued at £4,483,256 net. He left £1,000 each to 17 charities.

Ernest Sidney Bailey, of Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £4,273,356 net.

Alan Davis Godkin, of Holloway, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £4,108,404 net.

Sir Edward Stephen Lyett Green, chairman, East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, 1959-74, of Snettisham, Norfolk, left estate valued at £3,404,321 net.

Sir Basil Edward Nield, former High Court judge, of Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the only judge to have presided at all 61 assize towns in England and Wales, before the abolition of the assize system, Conservative MP for Chester, 1945-56, left estate valued at £1,239,014 net. He left £5,000 each to Harrow School, Magdalen College, Oxford, Honourable Society of Inner Temple and the NSPCC.

Latest wills

Sir Charles Sopwith, former Second Counsel to Chairman of House of Lords, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £487,222 net.

Lady Bennett, of Liphook, Hampshire, left estate valued at £449,211 net.

Lady Empson, of London NW3, left estate valued at £358,991 net.

Sir Claude Hayes, Chairman, Chislehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £269,864 net.

Lord Roskill, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 1980-86, of Newnham, Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £888,787 net. Alfred Alexander Harper, Professor of Physiology, Newcastle upon Tyne University, 1963-72, of Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £594,862 net. He left £1,000 each to 13 charities. Winifred Katharine Allardice, of Chichester, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,541,181 net. She left £1,000 each to several charities and organisations.

Ida Muriel Chapple, of London N21, left estate valued at £1,599,600 net.

William Holborow Clark, of Horley, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,052,092 net.

Alec Kindred Cooper, of Framlington, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,104,482 net.

He left an area of freehold land to Framlington Town Council.

Brian Malden Croston, of Lytham, Lancashire, left estate of £1,306,994 net.

Colin Thomas Freeman, of West Byfleet, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,212,429 net.

He left £10,000 to All Saints' church, Woodham, and £5,000 to the church of St Mary the Virgin, Stichester, Reading.

Desmond John Fry, of Chesham, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,077,924 net.

Belle Goldstone, of Hale, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,078,088 net.

Samuel Snowden Housley, retired farmer, of Redford, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,533,224 net.

He left £75,000 each to Russell Hall, Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Royal Schools for the Deaf, Manchester, and the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick, £50,000 each to the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, quinquennial, and the Chest Heart and Stroke Association; £10,000 to the RSPCA; £5,000 to the Parish Church of St Giles at Darton, and to the Parish Church of All Hallows at Ordsall, Salford; £2,000 to St Paul's, West Drayton; £2,000 to the Benevolent Fund of the Union of Agricultural Workers; £1,000 each to Newark and Notts Agricultural Society, Tuxford Comprehensive School and Bracken-hurst Farm Institute.

Emily Jenkins, of Oldham, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,040,138 net.

Arthur Cecil James Lambert, of Tisham, Norwich, left estate of £1,536,911 net.

Eleanor Landreth, of St Helens, Merseyside, left estate of £1,040,488 net.

Victor Bernard Levison, of London N20, left estate valued at £1,393,960 net.

Group Captain John Francis Newman, of Salthouse, Holt, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,129,209 net.

Among other legacies he left £1,500 to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Consecration of Coventry Cathedral 'A HOUSE SPEAKING OF PEACE' From Our Special Correspondent

With all the splendour that the Church of England can provide for its great occasions, the reborn Cathedral of St Michael was consecrated here today in the presence of the Queen by the Bishop of Coventry, Dr Bardsley.

The culmination of seven years of work and the fulfilment of more than 20 years of faith and hope that the old building, destroyed during the last war, would rise again was witnessed by a congregation of nearly 2,000, who occupied every available place in the new building and a stand erected among the ruins of the old.

It was shortly after 2pm when the processions of archbishops, bishops and clergy with civic leaders began to enter the cathedral and they took nearly an hour to file through the glass west door. Heading the procession of deans and provosts was the Very Rev. R.T. Howard, Provost Emeritus of Coventry, who held office at the time the cathedral was destroyed and whose words "We will rebuild" spoken the day after the air raid of November

14, 1940, were fulfilled today. Exactly at what point the cathedral may be said to be consecrated is apparently debatable. At Coventry it is held to be something not fulfilled until after Holy Communion has been celebrated, but for most people the central significant sign is at that stage of the service when the bishop on the Gospel side of the altar marks the fabric in pencil with a cross of consecration, a simple cross in a circle to symbolise eternity.

It was after doing this that the bishop spoke the words which have become the key words of the new cathedral: "The glory of this latter

house shall be greater than the former..."

The words were taken up by the Archbishop of Canterbury when he gave the sermon.

Dr Ransome in his sermon said that Coventry today echoed the words of the prophet: "This house of God was glorious now it will be more glorious still." The new cathedral was, he said, a house in which all the arts and the craftsmanship of their time had united: stone, wood, glass, metal, tapestry; the designer, the builder, the painter, the sculptor, a generation had made its offering of beauty in the service of God. Here, too, was a house into whose building had gone the zeal and the love of a whole community; it was the people's cathedral linking church and people together.

Here, too, was a house which spoke of peace, of reconciliation: nations which had been divided saw in it a sign that God could forgive. God could unite and God could make men and nations brothers. It was a prophecy, for, as a new cathedral rose from the ashes, so a new world of partnership and brotherhood could, by God's goodness, rise from the miseries of the past. There already was a glory greater than the glory that was before.

As the great congregation moved out into the blustering evening, a queue of thousands was waiting to file in to get their first glimpse of this new cathedral.

ON THIS DAY

May 26, 1962

The bombing of Coventry in 1940 destroyed its cathedral. The new one was designed by Basil Spence; among the works of art were Graham Sutherland's tapestry, an Epstein sculpture and John Piper's stained glass

It was after doing this that the bishop spoke the words which have become the key words of the new cathedral: "The glory of this latter

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

SHOUTING DISTANCE

Pain, passion and promotion at Wembley in the play-offs
PAGE 33

DRIVING FORCE

Villeneuve wins Spanish Grand Prix PAGE 25

FEAT OF CLAY

Henman seeks glory in French Open
PAGE 25

WHITHER WIGAN?

Chris Irvine
PAGE 34

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 26 1997

A STAR IS BORN AS TEENAGER HOLLOAKE SWEEPS ENGLAND HOME

Holloake sweeps England home

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (England won toss):
England beat Australia by six wickets

FOR the cricket-minded Englishman, life gets no better than this — a sunny Sunday afternoon at Lord's, Australia being beaten out of sight and a teenager of audacious talent leading the rout. A capacity crowd seemed unsure whether to gloat with satisfaction or gawp in astonishment.

The Texaco Trophy had already been won, but England showed no mercy, securing their third six-wicket victory, through the ritual winning blow from Adam Hollioake, with an over to spare.

An Australian side that arrived a fortnight ago with the glow of invincibility now betrayed uncertainty and divisions, exemplified by the unexpected decision of the captain, Mark Taylor, to stand down from the game like a boxer seeking to avoid further punishment.

In Taylor's absence, probably temporary but certainly unsettling, Steve Waugh was left in charge of a side that no longer seemed to believe they could win. They fell short of a challenging score for the third match in succession and were then driven to fractious despair by a debut innings from Ben Hollioake.

Holloake, remember, is 19, the youngest England player for 48 years, and his career extends to a mere five first-class games. He is such a novice that he had never so much as visited Lord's but the team management backed their judgement, and his ability, by sending him in at No. 3.

He was in as early as the sixth over, with the captain gone for one, and in an hour of almost surreal cricket he made 63 from 48 balls, including 11 fours and a six off Shane Warne. The ground stood and cheered when he departed. The Australians, who had chuntered and cursed with increasing vigour, just stood and stared.

You could hardly blame them. One Hollioake would have been more than enough. Adam having completed each of the two previous games with baring of contemptuous power. Now, piling insult upon injury, came the kid brother to mock them.

By last night, even the most philosophical of the Australians were struggling to sustain the impression that these games do not matter. Victory mattered enormously to Eng-



Gough celebrates trapping Mark Waugh leg-before

the field as substitute, was placed at second slip just in time to cling onto a head-high edge from Michael Bevan.

As a bowler, his principal suit, Ben Hollioake was smooth, athletic and long-striding. It was a satisfactory debut effort but not a dramatic one. The drama was still to come.

When Atherton was leg before to Kaspravic, Hollioake entered belatedly, as if he might have got lost on his first lone excursion from the Lord's dressing-room. He quickly introduced himself, driving his third ball from McGrath straight for four. McGrath was not pleased and responded with a bouncer,

rightly no-balled, and a glare. Hollioake grinned back boyishly.

At first he mixed clean and conventional strikes with air shots and it was difficult to know which annoyed the Australians more. By the time he reached 50 from 37 balls, only three balls more than the Texaco Trophy record, the novice in him had been suppressed.

Swinging Warne over mid-wicket for six was his crowning moment. Stewart, Crawley and Thorpe all made runs as the target was picked off. They batted with the assurance that comes from playing in a winning side. They also knew that the headlines would be long elsewhere.

England, once more, had impressed in the field. Graham Thorpe took a marvellous slip catch, low and fully extended to his right, and Atherton's touch was confirmed when Nick Knight, on

land, improving confidence and credibility, but, for the Australians, the manner and margin of defeat can have done nothing but damage.

Their continuing problems centre upon Taylor, who decided overnight that his own cause, and that of his team, would be best served if he left himself out. He will not have done this lightly — no proud captain ever does — and whatever the merits of his view that two three-day games might now put him right for the first Test, it could hardly have been a more public admission of anxiety over his form.

Taylor's departure gave an opportunity to Matthew Elliott but it came to nothing. Elliott, the angular left-hander so reminiscent of Bill Lawry, failed to survive the opening over, edging to second slip to give Darren Gough the first of his five wickets.

This was no more than Gough deserved for his testing and largely unrewarded bowling in the previous games. It was also an appropriate filip for the man who will lead England's Test attack.

They scored at a decent rate throughout their first 40 overs but lost wickets too fast. The pitch was blissful, the outfield surprisingly rapid and a total of 300 would have been no insurance against defeat. For Australia to approach such a position, it seemed Mark Waugh must score half the runs and when he was out to an off-cutter from Gough their hopes subsided.

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

England won toss	ENGLAND
AUSTRALIA	*M A Atherton lbw b Kaspravic 1 (22min, 15 balls)
*M T G Elliott c J Hollioake b Gough 1 (3min, 5 balls)	†A J Stewart c Langer b M E Waugh 79 (147min, 106 balls, 5 fours)
M E Waugh lbw b Gough 95 (142min, 90 balls, 12 fours)	B C Hollioake c S R Waugh b Gillespie 63 (61min, 48 balls, 1 six, 11 fours)
*S R Waugh c Thorpe b Gough 17 (30min, 19 balls, 3 fours)	J P Crawley run out (Gillespie/Kaspravic) 52 (103min, 78 balls, 4 fours)
M G Bevan c sub (N V Knight) b Gough 8 (12min, 10 balls, 1 four)	G P Thorpe not out 45 (63min, 43 balls, 3 fours)
J L Langer run out (Silverwood/Stewart) 29 (23min, 44 balls, 3 fours)	A J Hollioake not out 4 (13min, 9 balls)
A C Gillespie lbw b Ealham 33 (25min, 42 balls, 5 fours)	BExtras (B 9, W 13, NB 3) 28
†† A Healy c Lloyd b Gough 27 (60min, 51 balls, 1 six, 1 four)	Total (4 wickets, 48 overs, 200min) 270
S K Warne c Stewart b Ealham 5 (8min, 8 balls, 1 four)	G D Lloyd, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, D Gough and C E W Silverwood did not bat.
M S Kaspravic not out 28 (20min, 26 balls, 4 fours)	Score after 15 overs: 72 for 1.
J N Gillespie c Thorpe b Gough 6 (15min, 14 balls)	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart 18), 2-113 (Stewart 37), 3-193 (Crawley 28), 4-253 (Thorpe 34).
G D McGrath at Stewart b A J Hollioake 1 (4min, 5 balls)	SCORING: McGrath 9-45-0 (nb 1); 8 fours; 7-2-37-0; 2-0-8-0; Kaspravic 6-1-40-1 (nb 1, w 5, 5 fours; one spell); Warne 9-0-4-0 (w 5, 1 six, 5 fours; 8-0-29-0; 1-0-5-0); Gillespie 10-0-55-1 (nb 3, w 2, 4 fours; 5-0-20-1, 5-0-25-0; Bevan 3-0-27-0 (4 fours; one spell); S R Waugh 4-0-22-0 (nb 8; one spell); M E Waugh 8-0-28-1 (2 fours; one spell).
Extras (B 2, W 10, NB 2) 19	England won by six wickets
Total (48.2 overs, 211min) 259	Match awarded: D Gough (captain) RG D Willet
Score after 15 overs: 88 for 3.	Series awarded: A J Hollioake and M G Bevan
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (M E Waugh 1), 2-52 (M E Waugh 32), 3-63 (M E Waugh 34), 4-142 (M E Waugh 78), 5-184 (Gillespie 21), 6-218 (Healy 21), 7-228 (Healy 28), 8-249 (Kaspravic 28), 9-268 (Kaspravic 28).	Impressos: M J Hetherington and G Sharp. Third umpire: A A Jones. Referee: R S Madgwick (Sri Lanka).
BOWLING: Gough 10-0-44-6 (nb 2, w 1, 1 four; 6-0-27-3, 2-0-11-1, 2-0-6-1); Silverwood 8-0-44-0 (w 1; 8 fours; 3-0-21-0, 3-0-23-0); Ealham 10-0-47-2 (5 fours; 6-0-24-0, 4-0-19-0); Croft 10-0-61-1 (w 2, 2 fours; 5-0-33-0, 4-0-19-1); B C Hollioake 7-0-36-0 (nb 2, 1 six, 2 fours; 5-0-24-0, 2-0-12-0); J N Gillespie 8-0-38-1 (5 fours; 2-0-9-0, 2-0-12-0, 2-0-14-1).	Series details: First (Reading) England won by 26 wickets. Second (The Oval) England won by six wickets.



Ben Hollioake cracks a boundary off McGrath on his way to 63 off 48 balls in the Texaco Trophy match yesterday

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5

MOTOR RACING: HILL'S EARLY PROMISE GOES UP IN SMOKE

Villeneuve cruises to comfortable victory

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN BARCELONA

JACQUES VILLENEUVE passed a sentimental milestone with a dominant drive in the Spanish Grand Prix here yesterday. By winning, his seventh grand prix in 22 races, the Canadian surpassed the total set by his father, Gilles, nearly 15 years ago.

He had precious little to lose during a race which made a few people wonder whether weekend threats by the Formula One top brass to head east with their cigarette money were really so terrible after all. It was a tag end of a race, enlivened by a late surge from Johnny Herbert and some dubious blocking tactics, inevitably, by Eddie Irvine, who incurred a ten-second penalty from the officials after ignoring the blue "move over" flags as Olivier Panis and Jean Alesi filled his mirrors.

Alesi, not the most gentlemanly driver himself, gestured furiously to the clerk of the course after finally passing the Irishman. "I was hoping he was watching the television," he said. The Irishman claimed he thought the flags were for Jos Verstappen in

front of him. "There were so many pit-stops I was not sure who was in front of whom," he said. He was not the only one. The 64,000 crowd must have been just as confused as teams adopted different pit-stop strategies and the race lost any coherent pattern.

Late did they know it, but the trolley carrying the wet weather tyres back to the

Williams garage moments before the start of the race was the most significant action of the day. Once the starting grid was bathed in a shaft of sunlight, the one danger to the Williams team had receded. The appearance of Ronaldo, fresh from a nineteenth minute winner for Barcelona the previous night, caused rather more of a stir than anything

the £2 billion grand prix show could produce.

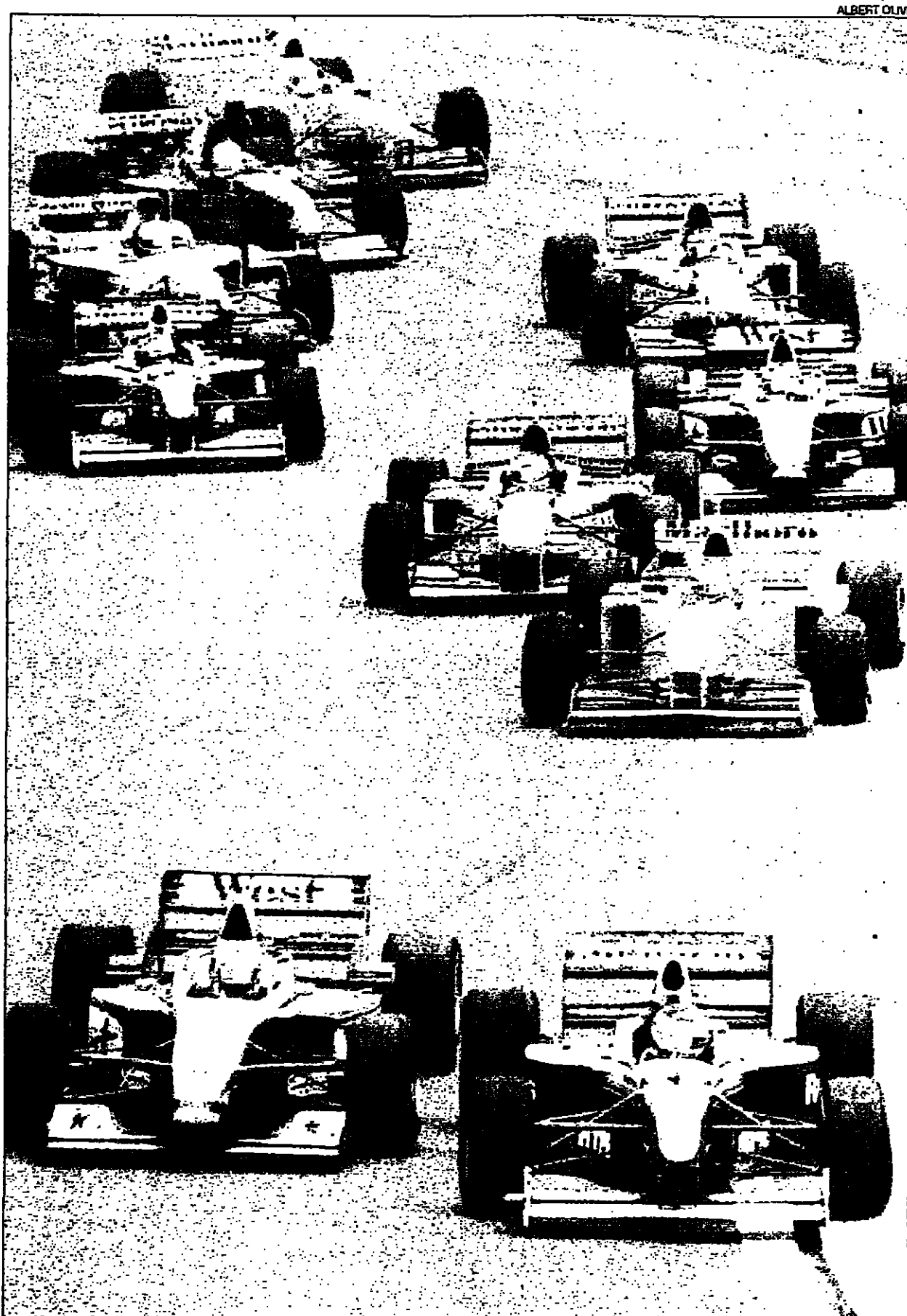
Villeneuve was headed briefly by Alesi and Michael Schumacher, during pit-stops. Otherwise, he barely put a wheel out of place during the 64-lap race and his five-second gap over Panis at the finish was a good deal more comfortable than the margin would suggest. "The car was very quick," he said. "It was just a question of keeping my tyres intact and not pushing too hard."

The one surprise was another lacklustre showing by his team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who started slowly and did not get much quicker. After outpacing Villeneuve in Monaco and matching him for all but three minutes and a fraction of a second in qualifying here, it was widely felt Frentzen was beginning to find his feet in Formula One. But, for the third time this season, he has wallowed in the middle of the pack, an uncustomed embarrassment for the world constructors champions.

The official explanation for the German's miserable eighth place was a wrong choice of tyres and set-up. "I had very good tyre wear all weekend but during the race, for some reason, my rear tyres blistered quickly and I couldn't really push at all," he said. "We will have to look into it." His strategy, taking three stops to Villeneuve's two, also seemed misplaced. The hidden fear, for the competitiveness of Formula One as much as for his team, is that the German's undoubted pace masks a mental flaw.

If the team needed any hint of what they were missing, it came in unexpected form on lap 19. Damon Hill, who had enjoyed his best race so far in a chaotic season at Arrows, felt his engine blow just as he had reached the dizzy heights of seventh place and slowly coasted to a halt right in front of his old garage at Williams. A gesture of despair, if ever there was one. "The world champion is beginning to run out of brave faces after failing to finish a race this season."

"The performance of the car was quite good today, which made me feel optimistic, but we were just let down by reliability," he said. "We have learnt something this weekend, so we can go back now and say there are some things right and some things wrong. Righting the wrongs might prove beyond the skills even of



Villeneuve, right, beats Coulthard to the first corner at the start of the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona yesterday

Hill and the team owner, Tom Walkinshaw, who has called a crisis meeting this week.

Hill's was not the only British disappointment. David Coulthard, who had qualified third on the grid, was caught out by Michael Schumacher on the opening lap and had to spend a frustrating 13 laps before he muscled his way past the rapidly fading Ferrari. Forced into the pits three times for new tyres, the Scot was unable

to mount a consistent challenge to the leaders and was passed on the last lap by Herbert, who finished a highly creditable fifth in his Sauber-Petronas.

The start, which was aborted initially after Ralf Schumacher stalled, proved to be decisive to the outcome, though not in the expected way. A charge by Schumacher from the fourth row of the grid took the Ferrari between Hakkinen and Frentzen; he

then forced his way inside Alesi to follow Villeneuve and Coulthard into the first bend. Moments later, he dived inside Coulthard, too, bringing the hard-pressed Ferrari team brief hope.

As Villeneuve drove serenely off into the distance, Schumacher continued to thwart Coulthard and Alesi. "I must thank Michael for that," Villeneuve said. While others blistered tyres in a vain chase, Villeneuve conserved his by

driving smoothly and swiftly from the front. By lap 20, his lead was 20 seconds and climbing.

Panis mounted a late challenge in his Prost without seriously threatening Villeneuve's third victory of the season or his return to the head of the drivers' world championship as he moves onto his home grand prix, in Montreal, next month and his annual rendezvous with the Villeneuve legend.

Ecclestone fans the flames of advertising argument

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE

IT WAS the idea of the grand prix circus touching down in Croatia and India that touched the sense of the absurd. No grand prix at Silverstone, Monza or Hockenheim — instead, Calcutta and Split would be on the new, cigarette-friendly Formula One calendar devised by Bernie Ecclestone, the most powerful man in Formula One, in response to a proposed European ban on tobacco advertising.

Formula One would not be the tempting place it is with the tobacco industry, but the reaction of the team owners to the weekend news that their future lay far to the east of Oxford, with only four of the 18 races scheduled in Europe, the powerhouse of grand prix racing for 100 years, ranged from the disdainful to the incredulous.

"What? We going to move to Japan?" Flavio Briatore, owner of the Benetton team based in Chipping Norton, asked. "I don't think so. We just want to go racing."

Ken Tyrrell, the grandfather of the pitlane, was equally dismissive. "Just a silly rumour," he said. He has heard a few in his time.

Tyrrell would be one of the few teams to benefit from any EU law banning sponsorship of sport by cigarette companies, which would cost Formula One an estimated £60 million. The top six teams in the constructors' championship — Ferrari, Williams, Benetton, McLaren, Prost and Jordan — all rely heavily on tobacco sponsorship to fund their massive, £35 million-year budgets.

Nevertheless, on the grounds that Ecclestone's words today tend to become law tomorrow, his vision of Formula One in the next century has to be respected. Formula One, as Ecclestone stresses, is a global sport. Grand prix are already perched in for Malaysia and South Korea next season.

Ecclestone's warning was aimed at the new Labour Government, which is deter-

mined to sever the ties between cigarettes and sport, triggering a possible EU ban. "If they [the British Government] think it through, they will see the great advantages of having Formula One in Britain," he said yesterday. "If they go through with certain measures, you will not have Formula One on television and that's going to be very boring for the eight million who want to watch." Not forgetting, he added, the 50,000 jobs that depend on the industry. Or the £2 billion flotation of Formula One proposed for this summer.

"In reality, teams would have to sell a European package to their sponsors and one for the Far East," Paul Stewart, of the Stewart team, said. Maybe a non-cigarette European Formula will one day emerge from the ashes of Formula One. That would surely be a more sensible alternative to racing mobile cigarette ads over the recent battlegrounds of Croatia.

SAILING: CLOSE CONTACT WITH OCEAN ROVER BREAKS MONOTONY IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

All hot and quiet on the Atlantic front

James Capstick discovers relatively few diversions on board *Heath Insured II* on the penultimate leg of the global challenge

THE sound of "starboard" rang out in the night as *Ocean Rover* ducked behind *Heath Insured II*'s stern. This was what the BT Global Challenge yacht race was about. After two weeks and 2,500 miles of ocean racing in the South Atlantic, we were obliged, under race rules, to avoid *Heath* on starboard.

As we sailed off in different directions, the exchange of camera flashes lit up the sky. Match racing can be this close and, on the penultimate leg from Cape Town to Boston, this close encounter was a welcome diversion. Since the re-start three weeks ago, we have sailed under spinnaker for all but a few hours. Apart from the odd gybe, there is little activity to keep us occupied.

As the days roll by, a rather repetitive regime has evolved, and a very different one from that imposed by the horrendous conditions we experienced on our last leg, across the southern Indian Ocean from Sydney to Cape Town.

"On Watch" requires a minimum of three people to

sail the boat. One to helm and the other two to trim the "kite". This involves one person, "the trimmer", holding the sheet (the bit of string attached to the corner of the sail) assisted by the third, who winds the winch under the direction of the trimmer.

Unfortunately, the nature of sailing is such that you may sit for several hours in the relatively predictable Trade Winds and then it all goes mad, with shouts of "winch" from helmsman as well as trimmer. It is not unusual for the skipper's head to appear

through the hatch with words of wisdom such as "don't round up or 'don't tease it'. If you get any of this wrong, there's likely that the next 24 hours will be spent sewing the bits of sail back together."

On the last leg, full thermals and foudling were the order of the day, with Arctic mitters. It was extremely cold. By contrast, the weather for the past seven days has been stifling, with a blazing sun overhead from eight o'clock in the morning. Severe sunburn is a real danger so we all have to take great care. To this end, some rather strange hats have appeared on deck, either bought especially for the job or improvised with towels.

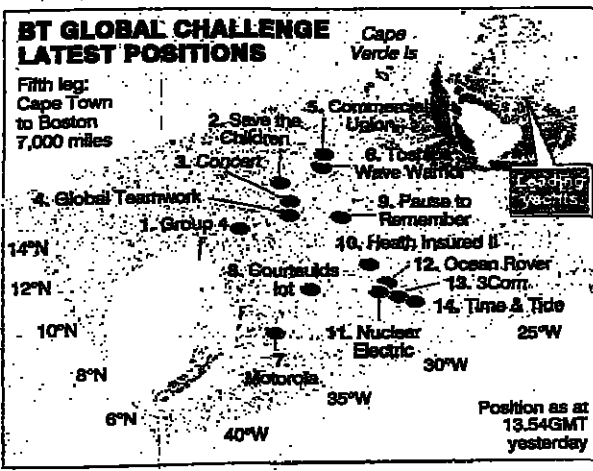
Below decks, *Ocean Rover*, with her steel hull, is like a furnace and, despite all the hatches being open, little air circulates. Where it does, you can be sure to find the "off watch" crew trying to get some sleep. Even at night, T-shirts

and shorts are all that are needed.

On the last leg, cooking was a good job as it meant that you were dry and warm, but, on this leg, it is a real chore, with the temperature in the kitchen before you start lighting the four-burner gas hob to cook for a crew of 14.

As I write, *Ocean Rover* is in tenth place, but not that many miles separate us from the leading boats. It is true to say that I am disappointed with our overall showing to date and certainly the crew had high hopes of better things at the start. It seems, however, that we are destined to stay in the middle of the fleet and nothing we do seems to change that. With the Dol-drums looming ahead, it is still a very long way to Boston, and we will continue to sail as fast as we can. It's a funny old game this sailing.

LATEST POSITIONS (with miles to Boston): 1. Group 4 2,673; 2. *Solo The Children* 2,741; 3. *Concert* 2,784; 4. *Global Teamwork* 2,794; 5. *Commercial Union* 2,816; 6. *Toshiba Wave Warrior* 2,819; 7. *Motorola* 2,832; 8. *Countdown International* 2,875; 9. *Pasat* 2,900; 10. *Heath Insured II* 2,905; 11. *Nuclear Electric* 3,022; 12. *Ocean Rover* 3,028; 13. *Scot* 3,082; 14. *Time & Tide* 3,120.



Capricious breeze leaves Johnson stranded

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

LOCH Fyne's reputation for producing conditions that are too good to be true, and too tantalising enough to test the patience of even the most long-suffering skipper, was fully justified this weekend as the 235-strong Rover Series fleet struggled in the lightest of airs.

At one point in the first race on the Glenfiddich Melges 24 and Sigma 33 course yesterday, yachts were running under spinnakers towards each other while others, just 50 yards apart, were beating on different tacks at painfully slow speeds. The biggest problem for the racers was

deciding whether to seek breeze by the shore or remain in the middle of the race area.

One skipper who saw his luck swing wildly in the fickle conditions was Dave Johnson, from Southampton, on the Melges 24, *Glenfiddich*, who shot from sixth to first on the second run in the first race of the day, having looked out of it at the weather mark. However, after rounding the leeward mark for the second time well ahead of the field, he sailed straight into a hole in the wind and sat there for an hour — where he eventually had his lunch — as he fell like a stone from first to last. "I'm never going to sail here again," Johnson, who recov-

ered to finish second in race two, said.

This is the twentieth series to be held off Tarbert and the sixth, and probably last, to be sponsored by Rover. This year, the regatta feels quieter than last with boat numbers down by 18, largely accounted for by the much smaller Melges fleet. The series kicked off with the usual feeder races from Gourock, on the Clyde, which saw 190 starters, and Bangor, in Northern Ireland, with a further 40 on the start line.

In the largest of the one-design classes — the Sigma 33s, with 27 boats — the competition is tight, with the British champion, Simon

Pender, on *St Joan*, who won at Cork Week last year, making a strong start. After winning the Gourock feeder, Pender was second in the first race on Saturday, then fourth in the first race yesterday, when he was over the start line early, and won yesterday's second race.

Pender described the hot, windless conditions on the loch as a "nightmare". Reflecting on his win in yesterday's second race, he said: "We just managed to weasel our way off the start line and picked our way through the wee boats and just followed the wind. We worked hard to keep the boat moving and just wriggled away."

In the Sonata class, Steve Goucher, the former Flying Fifteen and present Sonata world champion, had another fine start on *Eric The Boat*. He opened up on Saturday with a second place and followed up yesterday with a win and a third in the 19-strong fleet.

In Class 1, meanwhile, three of the top four places after three races have gone to the Bashford-Hovison 36s — *Bateleur 97*, owned by Chris Bonar, *Local Hero XV*, owned by Geoffrey Hovison, and *Playback 2*, owned by Keith Lawrence. In second place, in the thick of it, is the Corby 35, *Mustang Sally*, owned by Max Mullen.

Patriot game provides stern test for Henman

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

WHERE lies the soul, the form or the definition of grand-slam tennis this spring? In Britain, attention on the first day of the French Open in Paris will be focused on the nation's two leading men, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, who have struggled with injuries and loss of confidence. For the wider audience tuned into the Roland Garros Stadium this morning, the spotlight will fall on Pete Sampras, the world No 1 and a man who needs to acclimatise to red clay if ever he is to turn the clock back three decades to when Rod Laver won all of the four grand-slam events.

Olivier Delatre, a French wild-card entry, stands in Henman's way; another Frenchman, albeit one born in Tahiti and then naturalised, Fabrice Santoro, provides the examination of nerve and skill and temperament for Sampras.

And while all around the Spaniards are massing with their clay-court mixture of spin and guile, while an irreverent Chilean, Marcelo Rios, could plant his imprimatur in the red dust, the early passion play in the men's game is unsurprisingly the support of the Parisians, knowledgeable and patriotic tennis fans, for home players.

In Britain, interest in tennis was reawakened last year by the rise of Henman. Here, though, he may have to curb his attacking style in favour of the relatively slow, demanding and patient play required on clay. The French say that the tempo will be quicker this year, the balls will fly faster. The courts have been treated to speed them up and it needs only the heat to encourage Goran Ivanisevic, the volatile

Croatian, to shed his indifference to the surface and, perhaps, win his first grand slam.

Henman has been promoted to No 14 seed because of a rash of injuries to leading players. His opponent, a right-hander standing 5ft 8in tall, will be 30 next week and has only once advanced beyond the first round of his home tournament. If, after his elbow operation, Henman is remotely on form, he has a chance... though that would put him in the next round against the considerable power of the Australian, Mark Philippoussis. In a difficult quarter of the draw, the winner of that match would then expect to meet Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the reigning, if struggling, champion from Russia.

Meanwhile, Rusedski, if his injured wrist is firm, faces Magnus Norman, the Swede who recently beat Andre Agassi.

Britain has no qualifier in the women's event and so shares in the intense interest in Martina Hingis, the 16-year-old born in Czechoslovakia and now representing Switzerland. Unbeaten anywhere this year, yet to pay a cent in taxes because even

millionaires have to be 18 under Swiss law before the government dips into their account. Hingis is paying another kind of penalty.

She still wants to ride out adolescence and, having exercised her freedom on a friend's horse in April, she needed surgery to repair knee ligaments after proving more fallible in the saddle than around the courts.

Hingis has not been competitively stretched since then although the young brigade is after her. There is Venus Williams, the 16-year-old, 6ft American venturing to Europe for the first time. And there is Anna Kournikova, also 16, from Russia, who has come speeding through the junior ranks.

Steffi Graf, the No 2 seed, seems, and must feel, almost manly out on the teenagers' court. Back in 1993, she said: "I am just not the type to keep playing tennis at 28 or 29. I have already been in this murderous rhythm for ten years."

Graf will be 28 on June 14. She is hurting now from injury like so many others, from the tax problems that put her father in jail. She may be a prisoner to the game, to its stresses and its rewards for a while longer.

And though there were doubts about her fitness as well as a couple of weeks ago, Graf came back to complete the 103rd tournament victory of her "murderous rhythm" in Strasbourg last week.

Soon Graf may find herself literally double the age of some pushy young opponent from heaven knows where; after all, Steffi has already seen the evolution from one Martina (Navratilova) to the next (Hingis).



Hingis: knee injury

CRICKET: 19-YEAR-OLD MAKES EXUBERANT AND UNSELFCONSCIOUS START TO INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Hollooake proves it runs in the family

Simon Wilde analyses the impact of the brothers for England and Australia

A FEW minutes before Ben Holloake went out to bat for England for the first time yesterday, his parents were standing at the foot of the stairs leading to the top tier of the Edrich Stand. "We must go," his father, John, said. "I want to be there in case he looks up. He's still a boy, you know."

Just over an hour later, their younger son had compelled not just his parents but all 28,000 people in Lord's to stand and salute him. He had scored 63 from 48 balls, a not entirely flawless display but as joyous and confident a first innings in international cricket as there can have been.

It was full of the exuberance and the unselfconsciousness of youth. "The moment he walked onto the ground, he looked at ease with the situation," Michael Atherton, the England captain, said.

However, Holloake the Younger is, indeed, still a boy, 19 years old and still with much to learn about the world. Seven hours before driving Australia to distraction, he had needed directions to find his way to the home dressing-room, never having visited the world's most famous cricket ground before.

For such a "natural", the future appears to be full of possibilities. He was barely out of his cradle when his father, a sports fanatic, began thrusting balls, bats and hockey-sticks into his infant hands and he had the encouraging presence, too, of an elder brother who was already hooked on games. With these advantages, Ben was in a privileged position.

"His ability to throw a ball at the age of two," his father recalls, "was remarkable."

What may yet prove his greatest hurdle is not out, as he has been told, but to hit England's winning runs for the third time in three matches yesterday. Adam is 25, captain Ben at Surrey and has, in the matter of a few matches, established himself as a considerable international cricketer.

He is indeed a hard act to follow and not the sort of character to allow himself to be upstaged by a brother with

whom he cannot even play a casual game of table-tennis in their house in Wandsworth without it erupting into "World War Three". And, as Adam himself says, "older brothers are in the habit of having the last word."

It is a pattern that has often been repeated. No sooner has one brother made his name than some sage will opine: "Yes, he's a good one. But wait until you see his younger brother. He's magical."

Sometimes the predictions are valid, often they are not. Chris Smith said that he was not a patch on his younger brother, Robin, and it was not far from the truth. But predictions that Dean Waugh would turn out to be a better batsman than either Steve or Mark were way off the mark.

Dean has played one Sheffield Shield match and made a handful of one-day appearances for New South Wales, but it is likely that, at 28, he will be the permanent holder of the tag of "the forgotten Waugh" that was briefly the property of Mark. There is, in fact, a fourth brother, Denny, who has played grade cricket but he, too, has found the burden of the illustrious twins hard to live up to.

Growing up in the family's modest dwelling in a Sydney suburb, the Waugh twins shared a room together throughout their childhood, a situation that generated a healthy sporting rivalry of its own, and one not unlike that of the Hollioakes. They competed together in the backyard at cricket, football and tennis and it was not until adulthood that they forged their own identities, as some twins feel the need to do.

However, Steve was, first, by five years, to represent Australia and there was an uncomfortable period during which it was uncertain whether Mark would be able to keep pace with him.

"He hit the ball sweetly," Steve, Australia's acting captain, said appreciatively of Ben Holloake. "He turned the game for them." If the Hollioakes prove to be half as valuable to England as the Waughs have been to Australia, the nation will have reason to continue rejoicing.



Mark Waugh on his way to 95 for Australia in the third Texaco Trophy encounter at Lord's yesterday

Gallian takes firm hold on fort

By BARNEY SPENDER

OLD TRAFFORD (Northamptonshire won toss; Lancashire, 4pts) beat Northamptonshire by 75 runs

WHILE Mike Atherton, John Crawley and Graham Lloyd were at Lord's, basking in England's Texaco Trophy win, two men decried surplus to national requirements guaranteed that Lancashire kept up the pace at the top of the Axa Life League with a convincing win over Northamptonshire.

First, Jason Gallian produced a perfectly judged 101 not out, his first century in the Sunday league, to take the home side to 241 for six from their 40 overs. Then, Peter Martin ripped out three early wickets as Northamptonshire slumped to 27 for four and,

despite 67 from Rob Bailey, the game was up.

Lancashire remain the enigma of the county game. In the four-day game here they looked a very ordinary side but stick them in coloured clothes and a 40-over game and they look invincible. Perhaps it was the return of their captain, Mike Watkinson, and Wasim Akram, but there was an edge that was missing for much of the championship game. On this showing, it seems ludicrous that they failed to qualify for the Benson and Hedges quarter-finals tomorrow.

Northamptonshire, in contrast, face Yorkshire but their coach, John Emburey must be concerned about their shabby performance in the field that probably cost them 20 runs and the fact that they gave away 23 extras.

Paddy McKeown, who hit 37 from 46 balls, and Wasim gave Gallian great support with the bat while Lancashire's bowling and fielding was so tight that it quickly strangled any hopes Northamptonshire had of reaching the target. Watkinson made the initial breakthrough with a direct hit that ran out Penberthy, and Martin then removed Loye, Capel and Walton in quick succession. He returned to remove Bailey and Follett to claim Sunday best figures of five for 21.

Gallian played with real panache and gave his only chance on 87 when John Emburey, backpedalling furiously, failed to hang on to a skied chance into the covers. Otherwise, it was a perfect one-day innings and an object lesson for the visiting Justicville CC, a club for

homeless youngsters in Los Angeles.

He pushed the ball around intelligently during the early part but also struck six boundaries as he reached his 50 from 72 balls. Then, as Wasim joined him in a fourth-wicket partnership of 68 in eight overs, he stepped up a gear, his second 50 coming from just 39 balls. He finished with nine fours to his name as well as a straight six off Emburey in the over after the Northants coach had dropped him.

Wasim also showed a liking for the former England off-spinner, hitting him for one monstrous six which cleared the seats in the Warwick Road end and came within a whisker of sailing right out of the ground. His 28 came from 29 balls and he later bowled his full quota of eight overs with no visible ill-effects.

Lehmann provides spur for Yorkshire run chase

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

TAUNTON (Yorkshire won toss; Yorkshire, 4 pts) beat Somerset by seven wickets

ANOTHER thrilling innings by Darren Lehmann set up Yorkshire for a fine victory in a game of 521 runs. The Australian followed up his 177 in the championship match between the teams with a superb 76 from 66 balls, enabling Yorkshire to overhaul Somerset's challenging score of 260 for seven with 3.5 overs to spare.

Lehmann went for his strokes from the first ball and to be fair, the bowling gave him every encouragement. Andrew Caddick proved particularly costly, going for 60 from seven overs, not that any of the other bowlers will reflect on their performance with pride.

Yorkshire required 107 after Lehmann went, caught by Parsons off Caddick. But Michael Vaughan sustained his innings for 60 runs. Peter Hartley enjoyed his Sunday frolic as a bowler who can punch his weight as an attacking batsman, and Richard Blakey filled his boots towards the end against some moderate bowling.

Hartley drove Mushtaq Ahmed handsomely down the ground and smashed him to the extra cover boundary, first bounce. His best stroke was an enormous straight six off Jason Kerr that almost cleared the radio commentary box. Blakey followed up with a hit in the same place, and almost as big, in Kerr's next over. With 58 needed from the last ten overs, Yorkshire always had the job in hand.

Hartley's 48 came from 36 balls, Blakey's 36 from 31 balls, and both men hit four fours and a six. Together they made 66 in seven overs, whacking the ball far and wide until the task completed, they could pick off the last few runs at their leisure. But it was Lehmann's early charge that enabled them to do so.

The main feature of the Somerset innings was a stand of 133 for the fourth wicket between Richard Harden, who hit 85 from 77 balls, and Peter Bowler, who made 61. They were together for 22 overs, and provided the platform from which Somerset could plunder 81 runs from the last ten overs.

Harden began the season with a hundred in the championship against Surrey, and has not looked back. He went to his fifty by driving Michael Vaughan for six over long-on, and was eventually out when he mistimed another weighty drive and sent the ball skywards to David Byas at extra cover.

Brown puts troubles behind him by hitting savage best

By PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (Surrey won toss; Surrey, 4pts) beat Leicestershire by five wickets

ALISTAIR BROWN must view the euphoria surrounding the arrival of the Hollioake brothers in England's one-day side with a wry smile. A year ago, he was the flavour of the month after scoring a Texaco Trophy century against India at Old Trafford and look what happened to him.

His form dipped so alarmingly that in the end he was relieved to be dropped from the Surrey side. Even yesterday he could not be sure of keeping his place when Stewart Thorpe and the Hollioakes return so he could not have picked a more opportune moment to remind everyone what a wonderful talent he is.

He won this match off his own bat with the highest score any Surrey player has made in the Sunday League, beating his own record of 142 not out against Middlesex at the Oval three years ago. He made an undefeated 157 out of 238 for five, hitting three sixes and 15 fours. He faced only 117 balls. Surrey's next highest scorer was Ian Salisbury, who

Middlesex suffer 28
Durham triumph 28

contributed 22 to an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 63.

Brown made 78 out of an opening stand of 107 in 15 overs with Butcher, was anchored on 98 while three wickets fell for one run at the other end and still reached his 100 off 76 balls. He struck his sixes with panache off Brimmon, Johnson and Mullally, hit his fours like tracer bullets and offered just two desperately difficult chances.

Leicestershire hardly knew what had hit them. They owed their total of 234 for seven to some powerful late hitting by Jonathan Dakin, going in far too low at No 8. They had been given a decent enough start by Johnson and Wells, who put on 75 in the first 16 overs, but the middle order perished to Salisbury, whose damaged spinning finger seemed to be working well enough when Smith and Maddy both played on and Whitaker heaved horribly across the line.

It probably started to throb again when Dakin hit him for 19 in his last over, including a six driven gloriously back over his head and three fours. Dakin also drilled Lewis for a straight six to finish unbeaten on 41.

Gloucestershire bow to the rule of Law

By RUPERT COX

GLOUCESTER (Gloucestershire won toss; Essex, 4pts) beat Gloucestershire by five wickets

THEY may be the county championship pacemakers, but Gloucestershire's one-day form remains sketchy. Essex, meanwhile, are unbeaten in all competitions, and in comprehensively overcoming their hosts yesterday they maintained their 100 per cent record in the Axa Life League, as well as exposing a sizeable gulf between the teams at limited-overs cricket.

Essex won few friends during the festival week at King's School, pro-

Here is a batsman at the peak of his powers, with seven fifties and a century from 12 innings in all competitions this summer. In his second season with Essex, he has adapted to English conditions with aplomb.

On the same pitch used for the championship match, Gloucestershire won the toss and, after selecting two spinners, unsurprisingly elected to bat. It again proved to be a bland surface, short of pace, suggesting that a score in the region of 200 would be competitive, but, shackled by Essex's emerging new-ball pairing of Ashley Cowan and Mark Ilett, Gloucestershire succumbed to 26 for two by the eighth over.

The tone was set and, lacking an anchor to bat around, the innings shuddered to a steady procession as Essex, hardly extended, fielded tidily and bowled efficiently. A typically parsimonious spell from Peter Such, the off spinner, yielded one for 18.

Not for the first time, it required more of Jack Russell's indomitable spirit to avoid ignominy. Though edging precariously between wicket-keeper and slip on three, he impishly chiselled out 35 in 19 overs. It was a vain effort as the innings meandered to its meagre conclusion.

By contrast, Essex reached 50 in the ninth over as Law pounced upon any wayward offerings in an invigorating opening stand with Paul Prichard, his captain. Law's outstanding form was epitomised in the sixth over, when Ball, the off spinner, was introduced to the attack. Ball immediately dropped on to a good length, but was greeted by an imperious cover drive that streaked across the outfield, bisecting the field. Law's fifty arrived in 42 balls before a mini-collapse saw Prichard, Hussain and Law fall within two overs.

It was hardly terminal, despite a fine spell of three for 23 from Alleyne. Essex cantered to their target with more than 13 over to spare.

De Silva's pace too hot for Pakistan

SRI Lanka, the world champions, crushed Pakistan by 115 runs in the first match of the best-of-three final of the four-nation Independence Cup in Mohali on Saturday.

Chasing a target of 340, Pakistan's batting collapsed on an easy-paced wicket as they struggled to only 224 in 43.5 overs. Izzam-ul-Haq, who hurt his finger while fielding, and Abdul Razzaq did not bat because of injuries.

Sanjeeva de Silva destroyed the Pakistan top order with his pace bowling, taking three wickets, including that of Saeed Anwar.

The Pakistan collapse was in sharp contrast to the Sri Lanka innings, when Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu put on 148, a national record for an opening pair in a one-day international. Atapattu was out on 53, Jayasuriya hit 96 off only 67 balls while Aravinda de Silva made a flawless 50 at a run a ball. Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, completed Sri Lanka's dominance with an elegant 80.

In reply, Pakistan lost four wickets with only 85 on the board. Once Ijaz Ahmed was dismissed for 23, all Pakistan's recognised batsmen were gone.

Ramiz Raja and Salim Malik put on a brisk 56 off 60 balls and Mohtasham Khan made 57 not out, but it was always a lost cause.

Jayasuriya, who completed 3,000 runs in one-day internationals during his innings, hit 12 fours and a six but was dropped twice, on five and 58. He was finally caught at deep mid-off by Mohammed Wasim as he attempted a second six in one over off Mohammed Hussain, the left-arm spinner.

The second match in the final series is tomorrow in Calcutta.

Athey lifts Sussex to morale-boosting win

By JACK BAILEY

HORSHAM (Kent won toss; Sussex, 4pts) beat Kent by four wickets

THIS match had nearly everything. Not all of it was good, but there was something for everybody's taste except, perhaps, Kent, who, having won all of their previous one-day matches this season, were beaten with only three balls remaining.

There was a bumper crowd at this delightful ground, there was the usual heightened atmosphere pervading the 40-over game, there was a starker and there was an announcer on the public address system who had a field day. There were, too, a few surprises: for Sussex, their first Sunday win of the season, for Amer Khan, the joy of taking five wickets, as Kent stumbled to 220 for nine. He had dropped a couple of catches — Ward on nine, Walker on 13 — which proved expensive.

For those who have seen him day in and day out, there was also the unusual sight of watching an unfettered Bill Athey play some delightful, orthodox shots on his way to a match-winning century from 112 balls that included 11 fours and two sixes. He

batted from first to last and was still there as the winning stroke was made. He shared in a century partnership with Greenfield and was the rock upon which the Sussex innings was built.

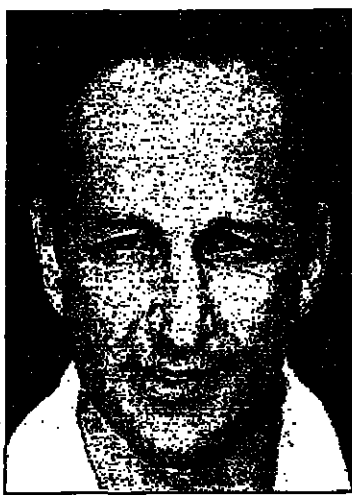
It was a cracking innings. Calm, composed, yet making the most of neat footwork he played few strokes that were not in the textbook. Yet he went to his half-century from 53 balls with eight fours, kept Sussex up with the asking rate, in spite of wickets falling regularly at the other end, and finally brought home the bacon.

Kent's total was less formidable than they had every reason to hope. In the early stages, Ward made everything look relatively easy. Walker's uncertain start did not inhibit his partner and Ward made 36 of the 49 put on for the first wicket with an array of strokes that were not bettered in Kent's innings, not even by Walker as his tensions eased and he began to lay about him.

Walker's 60 from 65 balls was the best score of Kent's innings and his partnership with Allan Wells, which realised 86 from 16 overs, was the most productive. Wells saw Walker, after he had hit a six and seven fours, fall to Khan, whose leg breaks constituted the only bowling that made the batsman think.

It made Kent's middle and late order think more than they would have liked, although Cowdrey played well for his 39 and Fleming looked good until he changed his bat and was bowled before he had time to use the new one. Having had Cowdrey deftly stumped, Khan induced more mistakes and, with Jarvis, ensured that 135 for one became 220 for nine and time for Kent had run out.

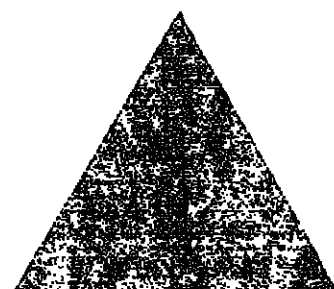
Moderate total though this was, it would have been more than enough but for Athey. Three losses from three starts had seen Sussex begin this match with little confidence. Perhaps this win will see them move onward and upwards.



Athey: match-winning century



It's a game of two halves.



Why stop at two?



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

CRICKET: WARWICKSHIRE REDISCOVER APPETITE

Feeble Middlesex can offer only limited resistance

By Derek Hodgson

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire 4pts) beat Middlesex by 108 runs

MIDDLESEX, without Jacques Kallis, their overseas professional — who now has a muscle strain after a stomach upset — and fielding four uncapped players plus David Nash, the reserve wicket-keeper, lost heavily at Edgbaston yesterday for the second time in two days.

Warwickshire hardly needed Allan Donald yesterday, but there is no doubt that it is the presence of the world's best fast bowler that has lifted the side recently, even in the absence of Tim Munton, the county captain, and reshaped their ambitions.

Neil Smith, Warwickshire's Sunday captain, led by example, lifting Angus Fraser for two sixes over long-on and, although Wasim soon departed, Dougie Brown was able to maintain the early impetus. Mike Gatting no longer has John Emburey to turn the screw when required, but Keith Dutch did a reasonable job of blocking one end as Warwickshire tried to accelerate on an easy, if used, pitch.

Two good catches by Ian Blanchett, perhaps the first graduate of Luton University to enter first-class cricket, did

delay Warwickshire and Gatting held on to a cannon-ball, before it could hole his midriff, to remove the dangerous David Hemp.

At 117 for four, off 26 overs, Middlesex must have been pleased and confident. Things went wrong when Gatting had to recall Fraser to support Richard Johnson and Blanchett, James Hewitt having bowled his stint in one spell. Eighty-six runs came off the last ten overs as Trevor Penney and Dominic Ostler, old hands at this game, leaned

Moles digs deep 26
Stately Gallian 27

back and enjoyed themselves before an appreciative crowd on a glorious afternoon.

Penney scored at a rate of a run a ball until well taken on the midwicket boundary by Nash, while Ostler hit both Johnson and Blanchett for six, his unbeaten 68 coming off 58 balls. Fraser, looking like a man who wished that he was elsewhere, was hit for 20 in his last two overs and some in the crowd were ill-mannered enough to jeer when his bowling figures were announced.

A target of 223 was not out of reach, given a confident bat-

ting order, but the championship defeat on Saturday, and the necessity to send for reinforcements, seemed to have left Middlesex in a defeatist mood. Admittedly, Warwickshire are particularly nimble and well-equipped for limited-overs cricket.

Dougie Brown and Graeme Welch, the opening bowlers, are experts at nag and needle. The batsmen know that they have to make runs against them because, in the middle of the innings, they may have to face Donald.

Six overs had yielded just 22 runs when the newly-capped Welch celebrated by trapping Mark Ramprakash, an early and substantial blow. The same bowler had Paul Weekes caught behind seven runs later and the innings all but keeled over at 37 when Gatting was not quick enough to beat Brown's long throw to the non-striker's end.

Scott Moffatt's attempts to rescue the situation foundered when Donald threw himself to reach a catch at mid-on. Gladstone Small enjoyed some much-needed bowling practice — and was swept for six by Brown — but finished with a career-best five for 26 as Warwickshire ambled to what could well be their easiest win of the summer.



Smith, the Warwickshire captain yesterday, steers the ball towards third man

Speight in full flow as Durham savour victory dash

By Michael Austin

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Worcestershire won toss; Durham 4pts) bt Worcestershire by seven wickets

MARTIN SPEIGHT ensured that Durham produced one of their most commanding performances in the Axa Life League. His masterful innings of 61, with five fours and a six, was studded with nimble footwork and improvised strokes.

Had the match been rain-affected, the result should have been measured not by the Duckworth-Lewis Method, but on the Richter scale, such were the tremors Worcestershire suffered.

When Speight perished in the style he had prospered, being caught while reverse sweeping, Durham required only another 70 from 19 overs. With David Boon as a formidable anchor, they duly achieved a second Sunday win at their Riverside headquarters, bridging a two-year gap since they defeated Warwickshire in the inaugural game there.

Worcestershire were distinctly out of sorts: their innings of 177 for six featuring only two boundaries before the 35th over, when David Leatherdale added much-needed impetus to make 53 not out with five fours from 48 balls.

Having crawled to 103 for five, Worcestershire thrived on Riverside's bounce, and a flurry of strokes from Stuart Lampitt, as 74 were plundered from the final ten overs.

It was still difficult to ascertain whether Worcestershire's batting or bowling was worse. They played as if their minds were elsewhere, they ultimately used seven bowlers and delivered a plethora of abballs and wickets.

Durham's attack looked fearsome in comparison. Michael Foster was economical, Alan Walker bowled a challenging line and James Bolling took two wickets in his first nine balls, including that of Gavin Hastings caught in-credulously off a full toss.

When looking in arrears, it was just emphasised Worcestershire's eminently forgettable afternoon.

Glamorgan increase pressure on ailing Hampshire

By Richard Hobson

CARDIFF (Hampshire won toss; Glamorgan 4pts) beat Hampshire by six wickets

VICTORY against county opposition continues to elude Hampshire, whatever the competition. After 13 games, they remain the only first-class side yet to record a win against one of their own and, yesterday, the lack of depth within their side was cruelly exposed.

Their innings never recovered from the loss of Smith and Hayden, in successive overs by Dale. In the field, they could not maintain the accuracy required to stifle batsmen who were content to nudge and tickle their way to the target of 181 on a pitch that did little to encourage stroke-makers.

Hayden, in particular, owed his side an explanation. Hampshire were 90 for two in the twentieth over when, with minimal footwork, he attempted to drive a wide delivery from Dale through the off-side, only to drag the ball on to his stumps.

Consolidation rather than acceleration thus became the edict and, with the exception of Kendall and Stephenson, none of the remaining batsmen reached double figures, until Renshaw struck an entertaining 15, after Warner Yousif had removed Stephenson, Aynes and Udal in the space of four balls.

In the absence of Croft, Glamorgan promoted Thomas to the role of pinch-hitter but the youngster lasted just five overs before being pinned on the back foot by the improving Renshaw. Three overs later, Morris offered a return catch to Udal to further encourage the visitors. However, Dale, completing a half-century from 58 deliveries and Maynard, curtailing his natural attacking inclinations, added 87 in 17 overs before Dale drove Udal to cover.

Cotterly proved an equally reliable partner, penetrating the in-field with consistent accuracy and, when Maynard was superbly stumped by the devious Aynes, Glamorgan required just 25 more runs with plenty of batting in hand.

Johnson and Archer flay Derbyshire bowlers

By Ivo Tennant

TRENT BRIDGE (Derbyshire won toss; Nottinghamshire 4pts) beat Derbyshire by 32 runs

THERE were runs and, indeed, centuries aplenty at Trent Bridge yesterday. The most impressive batting came from Paul Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, whose partnership of 198 in 28 overs with Graeme Archer effectively won the match. Nobody struck the ball harder than Chris Adams when Derbyshire batted, but insufficient runs were scored by a succession of partners.

For Johnson, this has been a terrific

weekend. Nottinghamshire's victory in their championship match on Saturday was astounding. Buoyed by that, he batted yesterday as he so often does in the one-day game, which is to say disdainfully. His first century of the season in any competition, 117, came off 92 balls and included 11 fours and a six.

True, Derbyshire were without Aldred, Cork, DeFreitas and Malcolm Jones, deployed four bowlers, including himself, who had two or three expensive overs apiece, unable as they were to contain Johnson and Archer on this even paced pitch. Both batsmen drove and pulled with a keen awareness of where the field was placed.

Archer's 104 not out was his highest score in the Sunday League. It came off 107 balls and included seven fours. This was the first time two Nottinghamshire batsmen had made hundreds in the same match in this competition. Hayhurst then took two wickets in successive balls, but enough runs had already been made.

Derbyshire required more than just a decent opening stand from Adams and Jones. These two batted attractively and well until Jones made to sweep a full toss from Bates and was struck on the front pad. They put on 117 in 20 overs. Adams should have been held at deep mid-wicket when he had made 70, Dowman not only misjudging the

catch but cutting his face when the ball struck his sunglasses.

Adams reached his century off 90 balls, and it included eight fours and two sixes driven over long-on and long-on. A third six followed, but wickets were falling at the other end and the asking rate was up to 12 an over well before he was yorked by Bowen, having made 121.

Adams, like Johnson, is deserving of at least one cap in one-day international cricket, but he will have to wait a while now. Bowen, who took 11 wickets in the championship match against Derbyshire, gained three more and Oram, a 22-year-old seamer who was making his debut, bowled Blackwell.



Adams: Jacked support

Ask the Swedes which car they believe in.

An Audi is Sweden's safest car. So says the Folksam Safety Survey, published every two years by one of Sweden's leading insurance firms. In outscoring both Volvo and Saab, Audi was found to be 55 percent safer than the average car. Almost unbelievable.



AXA Life League

Durham v Worcestershire
CHESTER-LE-STREET (Worcestershire won toss; Durham 4pts) beat Worcestershire by seven wickets

Worcestershire
T M Moody c Speight b Wicket 5
W P C Weston c Speight b Suggers 18
G A Hick run out 18
R A Haynes c Colchester b Bolling 18
V S Sothi b Bolling 4
D A Leathfield not out 63
P A Spry c Speight b Foster 39
S R Lampitt not out 24
Extras (8 b, 7 w) 23
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 177
Bowling: Kileen 8-1-36-1; Suggers 8-0-20-1; Walker 8-0-39-0; Foster 8-0-20-1; Sothi 8-0-20-2; Colchester 8-0-20-1; Haynes 8-0-20-1; Lampitt 8-0-20-1; Hick 8-0-20-1.

Durham
J E Morris c Spring b Moody 18
M P Speight c Wicket b Hick 61
D A Leathfield not out 63
N J Spink run out 2
J B Lewis not out 18
Extras (2 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 16
Total (3 wickets, 34.4 overs) 180
Bowling: Kileen 8-1-36-1; Suggers 8-0-20-1; Walker 8-0-39-0; Foster 8-0-20-1; Sothi 8-0-20-2; Colchester 8-0-20-1; Haynes 8-0-20-1; Lampitt 8-0-20-1; Hick 8-0-20-1.

Glamorgan v Hampshire
CARDIFF (Hampshire won toss; Glamorgan 4pts) beat Hampshire by six wickets

Hampshire
G W White b Corker 18
D L Hayden b Dale 45
R A Smith c Wicket b Dale 18
K S Marshall c Archer b Shaw 7
K S Marshall c Archer b Shaw 7
P A Shaw c Corker b Wicket 26
S D Udal c Wicket 6
R J Marsh not out 6
S J Renshaw not out 6
Extras (10 b, 10 w, 10 nb) 36
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 180
Bowling: Corker 8-1-36-1; Suggers 8-0-20-1; Walker 8-0-39-0; Foster 8-0-20-1; Sothi 8-0-20-2; Colchester 8-0-20-1; Haynes 8-0-20-1; Lampitt 8-0-20-1; Hick 8-0-20-1.

Glamorgan
D A Coaker b Renshaw 8
H Morris c Udal 12
D A Coaker b Renshaw 8
M P Maynard c Archer b Shaw 47
P A Coaker not out 41
P A Coaker not out 41
Extras (2 b, 1 w) 3
Total (6 wickets, 38 overs) 181
Bowling: Corker 8-1-36-1; Suggers 8-0-20-1; Walker 8-0-39-0; Foster 8-0-20-1; Sothi 8-0-20-2; Colchester 8-0-20-1; Haynes 8-0-20-1; Lampitt 8-0-20-1; Hick 8-0-20-1.

Gloucestershire v Essex
GLoucester (Gloucestershire won toss; Essex 4pts) beat Gloucestershire by five wickets

Gloucestershire
A J Wright b Birt 12
A J Wright b Birt 12
R A Coaker b Renshaw 8
S Young c S G Law b Coaker 22
R A Coaker b Renshaw 8
M W Alington c Renshaw b Coaker 11
M C J Birt c Renshaw b S G Law 11
A M Smith b Birt 7
R P Davis not out 4
K P Shawcrosse b Birt 13
Extras (10 b, 15 w, 5 nb) 33
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 139
Bowling: Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2.

Leicestershire v Surrey
LEICESTER (Surrey won toss; Leicestershire 4pts) beat Leicestershire by five wickets

Leicestershire
N C Johnson c Birt 40
J J Whitaker b Salisbury 34
B E Smith b Salisbury 18
D L Mackay b Salisbury 21
A Habb c Birt b Birt 20
J M Dalton not out 41
J P Parsons not out 12
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 224
Bowling: Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2.

Gloucestershire v Essex
GLoucester (Gloucestershire won toss; Essex 4pts) beat Gloucestershire by five wickets

Gloucestershire
A J Wright b Birt 12
A J Wright b Birt 12
R A Coaker b Renshaw 8
S Young c S G Law b Coaker 22
R A Coaker b Renshaw 8
M W Alington c Renshaw b Coaker 11
M C J Birt c Renshaw b S G Law 11
A M Smith b Birt 7
R P Davis not out 4
K P Shawcrosse b Birt 13
Extras (10 b, 15 w, 5 nb) 33
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs) 139
Bowling: Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2.

Such 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Essex
P J Pickard b Alington 28
S G Law c Dale 5
N Hussain b Alington 17
R C Ince not out 17
S C Eccleshall b Alington 17
D R Law c Hancock b Davis 10
D J Robinson not out 17
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 28.5 overs) 142
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Lancashire v Northamptonshire
OLD TRAFFORD (Northamptonshire won toss; Lancashire 4pts) beat Northamptonshire by 75 runs

Lancashire
J E R Galt not out 101
M W Alington c Birt b Birt 12
D A Leathfield not out 63
N H Fairbrother c Law b Suggers 37
Warrin Alington c Birt b Birt 28
D A Leathfield not out 63
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 241
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Northamptonshire
OLD TRAFFORD (Northamptonshire won toss; Lancashire 4pts) beat Northamptonshire by 75 runs

Northamptonshire
M B Lloyd c Yates b Alington 5
A J Pearson not out 5
K M Curran c Wicket b Chapman 19
D A Leathfield not out 63
T C Wicket c Renshaw b Birt 28
J J Birt c Wicket b Birt 28
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 241
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Sussex v Kent
HORSHAM (Kent won toss; Sussex 4pts) beat Kent by four wickets

Kent
T R Ward c Robinson b K Newell 28
M J Walker b K Newell 28
M J Walker b K Newell 28
G R Cowdrey c Wicket b K Newell 19
N J Lilling c Wicket b K Newell 19
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 241
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Sussex
R K Rao b Phillips 15
C W J Athey not out 109
R Cawley c Wicket b K Newell 19
M Newell c Wicket b K Newell 19
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 241
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

Warwickshire v Middlesex
EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire 4pts) beat Middlesex by 108 runs

Warwickshire
W G Khan c Blanchett b Wicket 6
M K Smith c Blanchett b Wicket 6
D L Mackay b Salisbury 21
A Habb c Birt b Birt 20
J M Dalton not out 41
J P Parsons not out 12
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 224
Bowling: Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2; Birt 8-0-20-2.

Middlesex
P N Wicket c Piper b Wicket 12
M R Hampshire b Wicket 12
M R Hampshire b Wicket 12
S P Moffat not out 4
D L Mackay b Salisbury 21
K R Brown not out 4
Extras (10 b, 4 w, 10 nb) 24
Total (5 wickets, 40 overs) 114
Bowling: Alington 8-0-18-1; Ince 7-0-20-3; Grayson 8-0-20-2; S G Law 6-0-17-1.

THE TIMES

RACING

Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL

Report and scores from the play-off final
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 50p per minute

Another O'Brien rises to Ballydoyle tradition

Desert King and Roche sweep clear to gain an impressive win in the Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh yesterday

Desert Prince impressed on his successful debut in the EBF Zetland Maiden Stakes at Doncaster on Saturday. The David Loder-trained son of Green Desert, sent off at 5-2 on, will be aimed at the Coventry Stakes at Don-

Desert Prince impressed on his successful debut in the EBF Zetland Maiden Stakes at Lancaster on Saturday. The David Loder-trained son of Green Desert, sent off at 5-2 on, will be aimed at the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot next month. "He is still

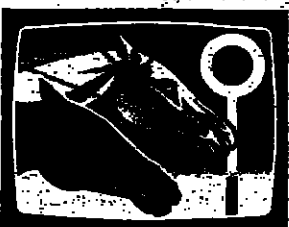
RACING: YORKSHIRE CUP WINNER POISED TO FOLLOW UP AT SANDOWN TODAY

Celeric can continue good work

SANDOWN PARK
CHANNEL 4

2.05: Dancing Drop, placed in listed company last term, is the class performer. However, she may be found out giving away so much weight on her seasonal reappearance as she comes from a stable with a low first-time strike rate.

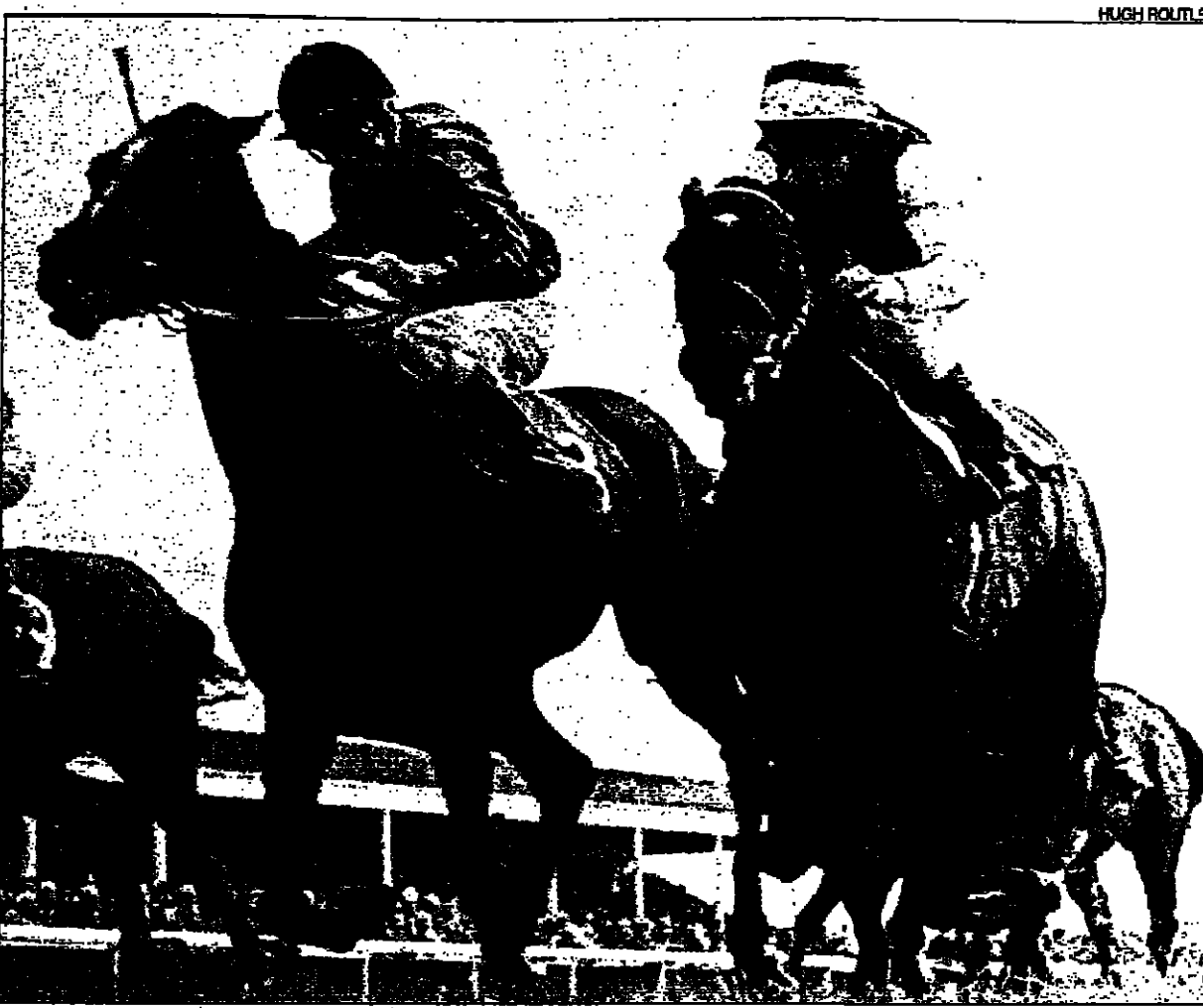
Plaisir D'Amour returns to the trip which saw her win twice at Leicester earlier this term, but the Neville Callaghan-trained runner does not always look the easiest ride. Zeldi Zouk is a consistent seven-furlong specialist who looked particularly well when justipped at Redcar in a fast-run race a fortnight ago.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: If the ground remains good or faster when Celeric runs this term, he is going to take the world of beating in staying races. Despite being endowed with stamina, the David Morley-trained five-year-old possesses the pricelessness ability to quicken at the end of races and, although this track tends to favour horses who race prominently, the recent Yorkshire Cup winner can follow up.

Kutta is theoretically weighted to reverse York form but appears soft in a finish. Cornhill, who beat Celeric at York last term, is a bigger threat along with the progressive Persian Punch.



Celeric, left, who narrowly won the Yorkshire Cup earlier this month, reappears at Sandown today

3.05: This is a tricky race for punters with some useful performers making their seasonal reappearance, like Abou Zouz and Easycall, taking on older runners with race fitness on their side. Mares often blossom when in foal and Royale Figurine was a decent race at Bath recently with something to spare. She is in the form of her life and will not

be far away. Abou Zouz beat Easycall in the Gimcrack Stakes last year and has progressed this spring, but may find it hard to confirm the form with Brian Meehan's sprinter over this trip. In a wide-open race, the progressive Farhana can regain the winning thread after chasing Royal Applause home in a fast-run Duke of York Stakes.

3.40: Samara finished last here on her only start this term, but is much better than that and it would be no surprise to see the John Dunlop-trained filly bounce back from her favoured draw.

Bold Words, drawn alongside in stall 17, is exceptionally tough and will reach the uphill climb. David Loder is striking form and Hal's Pal is fairly treated at the weights, but may find Michael Kinane's mount, Insatiable, a tough rival to overcome. After almost a year off, the Michael Stoute-trained runner has a cracker behind Centre Stalls at York 12 days ago, and does not need to find much improvement to oblige here.

RICHARD EVANS

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Kempston Park

Going: good. 2.05: 1. Marie Dore (J F Whitworth) 11-2; 2. Mount Holly (11-2); 3. Revell (11-2); 4. 12m 51.14; 5. Belding Total: £4,900; 6. £1,500; 7. £1,500; 8. £1,500; 9. £1,500; 10. £1,500; 11. £1,500; 12. £1,500; 13. £1,500; 14. £1,500; 15. £1,500; 16. £1,500; 17. £1,500; 18. £1,500; 19. £1,500; 20. £1,500; 21. £1,500; 22. £1,500; 23. £1,500; 24. £1,500; 25. £1,500; 26. £1,500; 27. £1,500; 28. £1,500; 29. £1,500; 30. £1,500; 31. £1,500; 32. £1,500; 33. £1,500; 34. £1,500; 35. £1,500; 36. £1,500; 37. £1,500; 38. £1,500; 39. £1,500; 40. £1,500; 41. £1,500; 42. £1,500; 43. £1,500; 44. £1,500; 45. £1,500; 46. £1,500; 47. £1,500; 48. £1,500; 49. £1,500; 50. £1,500; 51. £1,500; 52. £1,500; 53. £1,500; 54. £1,500; 55. £1,500; 56. £1,500; 57. £1,500; 58. £1,500; 59. £1,500; 60. £1,500; 61. £1,500; 62. £1,500; 63. £1,500; 64. £1,500; 65. £1,500; 66. £1,500; 67. £1,500; 68. £1,500; 69. £1,500; 70. £1,500; 71. £1,500; 72. £1,500; 73. £1,500; 74. £1,500; 75. £1,500; 76. £1,500; 77. £1,500; 78. £1,500; 79. £1,500; 80. £1,500; 81. £1,500; 82. £1,500; 83. £1,500; 84. £1,500; 85. £1,500; 86. £1,500; 87. £1,500; 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Simon Barnes witnesses a Wembley occasion of brilliance, beauty and banality

Journeyman savour their day in the sun

IT IS always the most poignant football match of the season, and for that reason one of the most beautiful. It was dire, too, of course, an absolutely awful match, but to understand it as such is to miss the point by a mile. It was a match in which the beautiful and the ludicrous were so close as to be indistinguishable.

Northampton Town played Swansea City in the annual festival of retrograde justice called the play-off. This was the play-off for a place in the Nationwide League second division. Northampton, ludicrously, beautifully, won 1-0.

No more for them the heart-wearying struggle to Hardlepool United, Torquay United and Barnet. No, they take their deserved place a division higher, among the glamour boys — Plymouth Argyle, Preston North End, Wycombe Wanderers. What more could any heart desire? Northampton, who, like most

much, Molby mourned afterwards. Which is nonsense: the trouble is that dominating games without actually scoring is destructive of self-belief.

There is normally a certain zing about the play-off. As a rule, the higher stakes for which a game is played, the more dire the spectacle — look at World Cup finals — but this rule does not operate for play-offs. Having missed promotion by the usual means of solid, consistent effort, teams are given a second bite, culminating in a winner-takes-all occasion. There tends to be a joyous embracing of the sacred second chance.

This game, though, was not a bit like that. It was rather like a bad third division match. No doubt both managers told their players not to be overawed by the big occasion — "Just go out and play your normal game." Alas, they all did.

By the time that 90 minutes had been played, every neutral in the stadium — fortunately, there were not many — felt with anguish the dreadful inevitability of extra time. How much more of this ghastliness could be tolerated? Which made the conclusion that much more beautiful, that much more ludicrous.

Into stoppage time, there was a free kick on the edge of the Swansea box. It was taken by a baldish chap called Frain. It cannoned into the wall, as you knew it would, a perfectly rotten free kick, in keeping with a perfectly rotten match, but Terry Heilbron, the referee, decided that there had been encroachment, well, there always is. Whimsically, Heilbron decided that, for once, the law would be enforced. He booked Coates, the encroacher, and Frain had another go.

It was like finding a fragment of a noble poem in the middle of a report of the allotments sub-committee meeting of Merton Borough Council (documents of this sort were once my daily reading matter). The sheer unexpectedness added to the beauty, the ludicrousness, the perfection of the moment.

There is not a player in the FA Carling Premiership who would not have been delighted with the kick. Juninho, Zola, Beckham, name who you like. It had power and dip and late swerve... and accuracy. There is not a goalkeeper in the land who would have been ashamed of being beaten by it. Even Schneider would have found it hard to find someone to blame.

Who is he, then, this fiendish Frain, this dead-ball magician? A young and rare and rising talent, to be plucked from the bowels of obscurity to a stage more suited to his extravagant gifts? Remember



Amptadu, left, the Swansea City midfielder, makes a full-blooded challenge on Frain, the scorer of Northampton Town's winning goal

Frain: a name to remember

other clubs at such a level, have fired with extinction, came to Wembley for the first time in their history with thousands upon thousands of supporters: loyal supporters for at least a day, supporters they never knew they had. They outnumbered and outwitted the Swansea followers, but their team was outplayed for most of the match. Jan Molby was the key to that. Molby, the Swansea player-manager, never swells even in his palmiest days with Liverpool, is now colossus of the third division. Everything about the man is clumsy save his feet, everything about him slow save his footballing brain. It really should have been his day. Wembley, a place of agoraphobic spaces for most third division players, is made for passers like Molby. As, indeed, are third division opponents.

"You can dominate games too

the name: you will probably never hear it again.

John Frain, aged 28. Came to Northampton on loan from Birmingham City. Signed for them full-time late this season. He was more than ten years with Birmingham and made more than 300 appearances for them. He has, in short, already reached his peak and is declining therefrom.

Yet he has kept the faith, you see.

that is the point. You wonder why, since the difference between have and have-not is so uncrushably wide these days, with Premiership football and Premiership girls threatening to remove their Premiership replica shirts on posters selling Premiership lager. Just why does a journeyman footballer keep on journeying?

The answer comes in Steve

Claridge's excellent *Tales From the Boot Camps*. Claridge, who scored a memorable goal in the play-off final against Crystal Palace to secure Leicester City's place in the Premiership last season, tells of the ridiculous and impecunious life that he had led with lowly clubs.

"At that level, you are not in it for the money," Claridge writes. "Most of us were in love with the idea of being a professional footballer. You

live for your shot at glory, that one Cup result that lifts your name out of the small print." Frain has waited ten years and more for exactly that. Let us wish him joy of it.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (3-4-1-2): A Woodman — R. Whitham, D. Barnes (sub. D. Ross, 40min), I. Sampson — J. Clarkson, S. Parrish, R. Hunter, J. Frain — C. Lee — J. Gayle (sub. J. White, 76), N. Grayson. SWANSEA CITY (3-1-3-3): R. Friedrove — J. Monro, K. Walker, C. Edwards — J. Molby — C. Perrey, J. Amptadu, J. Coates — S. Torrey, C. Hogg, D. Thomas (sub. L. Brown, 83). Referee: T. Heilbron.

Play-off success fuels Gradi's fears of change at Crewe

Crewe Alexandra 1
Brentford 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

IN THE last minute of an almost embarrassingly one-sided Nationwide League second division play-off final at Wembley yesterday, Dele Adebola, Crewe Alexandra's big striker, got away alone, a second time. On the previous occasion, some 20 minutes earlier, forgotten by a distracted Brentford defence, he had run on to Westwood's quickly taken free kick and hit the post.

Now, from the left, having rounded the goalkeeper, he unselfishly slotted the ball across goal to the unmarked Colin Little. To score seemed a formality, but Little's shot was weak and Hinchings, for the

second time, thwarted him by clearing off the line. He had done so previously when Little had been perfectly set up by Whalley.

So the score remained at a parodic 1-0. After a slightly nervous start, during which they committed a few errors in defence, Crewe settled down to play so well, to show such flair, technique and movement, that you wondered why they had had to resort to the play-offs at all.

The question now is can they afford to keep this excellent young team together? Over the years, Dario Gradi, that accomplished manager-coach, has produced a steady stream of talent to be poached, in time, by richer clubs. Danny Murphy, 20, and Gareth Whalley, 23, such confident, accomplished, unburied midfield players, are bound now to be hunted by the

colossi. Gradi is resigned to it, though he did say that, so far, he had not had "any multimillion-pound offers for anybody, and we're not answering the phone tomorrow".

That coaching, really good coaching, can pay was emphatically shown by this clever Crewe team. Murphy, who, with his groin injury, had been in doubt until some 40 minutes before kick-off, said that he had joined Crewe "when I was 14, and I wish I could have gone even earlier than that. There are some young lads at the club who've got tricks and skills I can't do at the age of 11".

Shaun Smith, the left back who so powerfully struck the Crewe goal, said: "We do a lot of things that a lot of people think are beneath them. We work hard on our techniques." Smith's decisive goal came after 35

minutes, ten minutes after Murphy, exploiting a back-heel from Whalley, had broken through to hit the right-hand post. Murphy returned an overhit left-wing corner from the right, Macauley headed it back and Smith drove the ball home.

Two minutes later, from a corner by Rivers, Macauley headed against the bar. Crewe were dominant and even David Webb, the Brentford manager, admitted that they could well have scored several more goals.

"Our game went backwards," Webb said, "and their game went forwards, and that was the difference between the two sides. They looked much better equipped than us today to go up to be a first division team."

To be cruel, if truthful, Brentford looked clumsy by comparison. The only shot of any consequence that they had came from the always

industrious and effective Taylor, when he struck a loose ball to which Kearton got down a little late.

Any lingering hope that Brentford had of saving the game virtually disappeared a minute after Adebola had struck the bar. Statham, getting a second yellow card for a reckless tackle on Garvey, was sent off.

"If they get a chance to go," Gradi said of his gifted young players, "well, good luck to them. If you ask me what are my players worth, then I think it's much more money than I can pay for replacements." All in all, you might call Crewe's a bittersweet success.

BRENTFORD (4-2-2): K. Dearden — G. Hurdle (sub. B. Ashby, 74min), C. Hildings, J. Bates, I. Anderson — M. Bent (sub. S. Carrham, 46), B. Statham, P. Smith, C. Asch — D. McGinn, R. Taylor.

CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-3-3): J. Kearton — L. Lines, A. Westwood, S. Macauley, S. Smith — D. Adebola, C. Little (sub. S. Whalley, 80), G. Whalley (sub. S. Garvey, 69), D. Murphy (sub. S. Johnson, 86) — C. Little, D. Adebola, M. Rivers. Referee: U. Reame.



Smith: Wembley winner

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6/1 FORTOFT (S) 14/1 GORDON (C)
7/1 KATCHUORO (S) 16/1 HOUGHTON (C)
10/1 HOPKIN (C) 16/1 WARD (S)

Over goals do not count. Other players on request. Extra time does not count.

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William HILL

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs suffer heavy rout

LONDON Monarchs confirmed their status as terrible travellers with another crushing defeat on Saturday, this time at the hands of Frankfurt Galaxy, 31-7 (Richard Wetherill writes). While the sheer number of points conceded is a worry, the lack of offensive output is the main concern. The Monarchs have scored 90 points in seven matches — 32 came in one game, which they still lost. That has put undue pressure on the defence.

Starting his first game for the Monarchs, Kerry Joseph, their third-string quarterback, had a miserable night. He connected with only nine of 33 passes, threw three interceptions and fumbled twice. London's points came from a 30-yard touchdown run by Ron Dickerson and Clive Allen's extra-point conversion.

The Scottish Claymores, however, shook off their own offensive doldrums with a 32-20 victory in Düsseldorf against Rhein Fire. Coming back from 20-7 down in the final quarter, a touchdown from Scott Couper 15 seconds from the end clinched the win.

SPEEDWAY

United States ride in for testing summer

By TONY HOARE

ENGLAND'S international team faces its busiest summer in three years with the announcement that they are likely to take on the United States in a three-match series in the autumn.

The series has been pencilled in to the calendar after the strong Sweden side was forced to pull out of a planned series. It will be the second series of the summer, with England facing Australia in a three-match series, starting in July.

However, the United States will provide just as much stiff opposition, boasting arguably the two best riders in the world: Billy Hamill, the world champion, and Greg Hancock, the winner of the Czech grand prix last week, who will lead the side. They will also include Sam Ermolenko, the 1993 world champion.

England have already announced their ten-man squad, with Gary Havelock, of Bradford, the 1992 world champion, captaining the team, who have John Louis, the former England rider, as manager.

The sides last met in 1994, when England won a three-

Yates makes his mark at 100 miles

Yates makes his mark at 100 miles

WHETHER Sean Yates, the former Tour de France time-trial stage winner, achieves one of his season's targets — to win the British 100 miles championship — is almost irrelevant (Peter Bryan writes). His victory yesterday in the Swan Velo 100 miles has already put him into the record books for setting the fastest debut time at the distance, plus event and course records. In addition, his winning time of 3hr 40min 18sec was achieved on the course near Didcot that will be used for the national championship in July.

Yates began international professional road racing in 1981 and retired last year, but, once back in England and working as a self-employed gardener, he could not resist the attraction of time-trials, which comprise his basic programme as an amateur. His reward has been a string of successes, with his victory yesterday his fourteenth of the year so far. On this occasion, Yates beat Gary Dighton, the event winner in 1991, by 1min 37sec, with Eamonn Deane taking third place, almost ten minutes in arrears.

CYCLING

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Kendall in no doubt about price of Wembley failure

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HOWARD KENDALL, the Sheffield United manager, knows exactly what the price of failure will mean in the Nationwide League first division play-off final today and realises that he may never get as close again.

Kendall's side will be looking to break the hearts of Crystal Palace for a second successive year after their defeat by Leicester City 12 months ago.

For Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, Steve Claridge's late goal meant everything — the difference between the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership and the almost barren wilderness of the first division.

To the victor the spoils have never been more truly defined than at Wembley on a late May Bank Holiday afternoon as Premiership status, and the financial rewards that go with it, are incomparable.

Kendall has suffered the slings and arrows of footballing fortune during his managerial career, from unbridled success with Everton to the ignominy of his dismissal by Notts County two years ago after just 79 days amid rumours of a drinking problem.

Sheffield United needed someone with experience after Dave Bassett left in 1995 and Kendall fitted the bill. The club took a chance and it has been one that has paid off

Gascogne's woe 32
Results 36

handsomely. After keeping them out of the second division last season, Kendall, and United, are now one game away from the top flight — a feat that he believes would equal anything that he has so far achieved.

Kendall, who led Everton to the League FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup, said: "Reaching the Premiership would compare highly. I would put it up near the top of my career. It's what we've got to look forward to that shows how important it is."

"The first division will become increasingly more difficult to get out of because the teams who are relegated will have become stronger due to the finances they have had while they have been in the Premiership."

"All you hear about from chairman whose sides are near the bottom in the Premiership is 'We can't afford to go down, we mustn't go down', but three go down every year and some of these chairman have spent fortunes to try to keep them there."

It all means that the implications of defeat are unthinkable. "It's down to the day," Kendall said. "Anything can happen. We were one of the favourites at the start of the season to go up automatically and we didn't do that. Now, we are in the play-off final and it's a lottery."

Kendall can only hope that his number comes up and that next season his side will be sharing in the Premiership's riches.

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Decline and fall of the house of Wigan



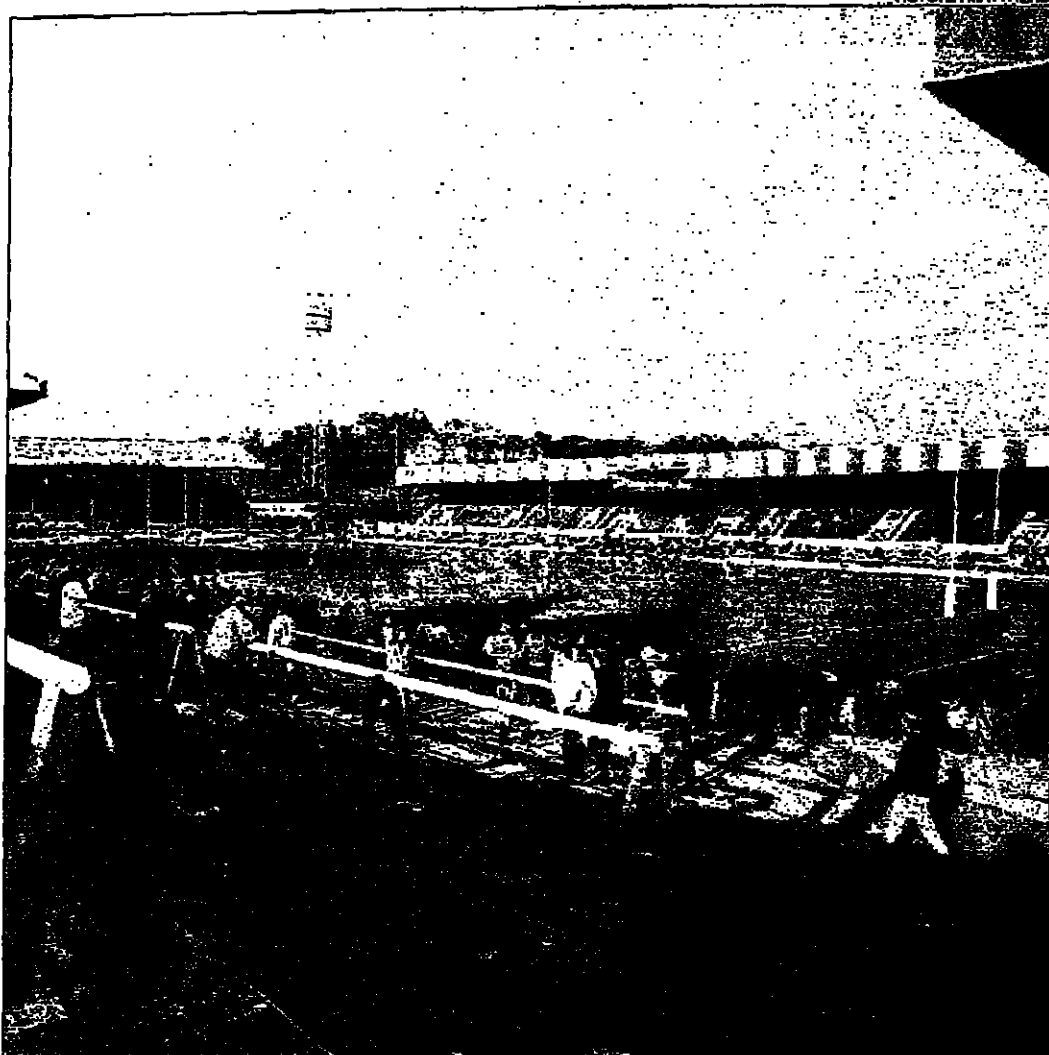
Christopher Irvine on the strife dominating a place that was once considered a centre of sporting excellence

Sunday afternoons in Wigan are not the same. When pottering around the garden can come before rugby league at Central Park, something is badly amiss. A revival in its infancy and, were Wigan to avenge two defeats by St Helens already this season at Knowsley Road tonight, maybe those supporters who have stayed away will begin to trickle back. Maybe not.

A victory at the expense of their great rivals would hardly remove the strife and bitterness at Wigan. Within two years, Central Park will be concreted over and ringling tills will replace clicking turnstiles. The ashes of Jim Sullivan, the club's legendary record points-scoring, are among those scattered there. Soon, Sullivan Way will lead to a supermarket. It has all been too much for supporters who feel that their birthright has been flogged for aisles of frozen food.

Much of the anger is directed at Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman. At a pizza restaurant recently, Robinson and his two young sons were accosted by taunting youths. For all that Robinson has sometimes stumbled in his handling of the £12 million sale of the ground to Tesco, he has not deserved some hurtful treatment. "History records that many people involved in progress have suffered stones and insults, but have ended up being proved right," he said.

However, it was the manner in which the sale was done and the lack of a relocation package that left a sour taste. Shareholders who



The half-empty terraces at Central Park bear witness to the decline of a team that swept all before it in the late Eighties and early Nineties

had backed a multimillion pound redevelopment of Central Park were simply overlooked. Politics, pettiness and personality clashes are now conspiring to leave the world's most famous rugby league club homeless. A temporary move to Bolton Wanderers' new ground at Horwich, in 1999, might end up becoming permanent. A six-mile journey, however, is considered too far by many Wigan supporters. The charade has had a destabilising effect on the team, according to Maurice Lindsay, who left Wigan in 1992 to become the chief executive of the Rugby Football League.

"They're our flagship club and they're in trouble," he said. "There are signs of recovery, but people are surprised because Wigan were seen as the embodiment of sporting excellence, similar to the

Liverpool football side of the Seventies." The power struggle has not been edifying, nor has it done Wigan any good. They appear to have taken their eye off the ball. As the name implies, Central Park stands at the heart of the town, albeit cut off by two road schemes. Rickety and rotting in parts, it has been Wigan's home since 1902. While Wigan Athletic Football Club and Orrell Rugby Union Club are planning to share a new stadium in the town, there is apparently no room there for Wigan.

Dave Whelan, the Wigan Athletic chairman whose firm once sponsored the rugby league club, directed his wealth into the Robin Park site, after his proposed rebuilding of Central Park was ignored in favour of the supermarket plan. The Wigan board felt that

the terms of Whelan's proposed lease were a financial straightjacket. Whelan was as surprised as anyone by the deal done with Tesco. He is now refusing all contact with Robinson, who at least commands the support of the majority of shareholders after squeezing home in a confidence vote last week.

Inevitably, perhaps, controversy dogged the vote. Robinson had been prepared to stand down if he had lost. The mood at a special general meeting was generally felt to be anti-Robinson. He and Tom Rathbone, a fellow director, relied on proxy votes in the confidence motion and then hung on, after a recount, by a dozen votes to the debenture stock by which they effectively control the club.

Robinson is one of life's survivors. In March, he won a long



legal battle with the Wigan Observer that placed him under great personal strain. His earnest hope now is for the impasse to end and for Wigan to find a permanent new home, ideally at Robin Park. If not there, a separate stadium will probably be built in the town, although the way that Wigan are waving improved contracts at players and bringing back Denis Betts from New Zealand next season, at a reported cost of £250,000 a year, suggests that the ground sale proceeds are already being spent.

If Wigan need reminding of how far a club can fall, they need only look at the rapid downward spiral of Widnes, who are a place off the bottom of the first division. When Robinson, an antiques wholesaler, and Lindsay, his predecessor as chairman, arrived on the board, in

1979, Wigan really were in crisis. Their influence in Wigan's rise from the second division and decade-long stranglehold on the game, which was broken only last year by St Helens, was enormous. When Wigan won the world club challenge, in 1994, Robinson contemplated standing aside.

"I would have gone on a high and, possibly, I could see the storm clouds on the horizon," he said. "Until that memorable night in Brisbane, I was Central Park's biggest fan, but I looked at that fantastic stadium and the luxurious facilities there, and I knew then that if we wanted to prosper like Brisbane Broncos, we had a big job to do. This club has to be dragged into the next century. We're not forgetting its heritage. What we're stressing is its future. The storm clouds burst over

Wigan the next year. Betts and Phil Clarke left for the southern hemisphere, because winning with Wigan had become too easy. The battle to keep others out of the clutches of the Australian Rugby League (ARL), at the height of the Super League war, was costly and not entirely successful. Unless he can be persuaded, Jason Robinson is off to the ARL after Wigan's first three matches in the world club championship next month. Tie-ups last year with rugby union produced self-inflicted wounds, in which players returned jaded, injured, or, in Va'aiga Tuigamala's case, not at all.

Invincible Wigan were suddenly human. Lindsay said: "The levelling up we are now seeing is half down to the damage at Wigan and half to the transformation of other clubs. Bradford are doing what Wigan did in the Eighties. They are seeking to develop, and are using good judgment in their recruitment. Brian Smith set the

'They are our flagship club and they are in trouble'

thing rolling as coach. London are not mentioned in those terms yet, but they're a top form team and Leeds are pushing hard. What we've now got is genuine competition."

Even Robinson concedes that the rugby is more interesting. Nobody now boards the Wigan team bus imagining that they will romp home by 20 points or more. The side operated on auto-pilot in crushing all-comers. When John Doralhy tried new methods, he lasted a season. Certain playing personalities were too strong. With a young side, Eric Hughes, four months into the job as coach, is slowly evolving a new approach. He admitted that division off the field had not helped.

Only 7,664 spectators witnessed the destruction of Castleford last Friday, half the average gate when Wigan were at the height of their powers. With St Helens now off the pace in the Super League, a rout of the old enemy tonight would at least offer a rallying point for the disaffected Wigan public.

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THE TIMES

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This week *The Times* offers you the chance to go to a National Trust evening concert or play, absolutely FREE. You can choose from classical music and jazz, plays by Shakespeare and Sheridan and operas, including *Die Fledermaus* and *Madam Butterfly*. Most of the events are performed by candlelight, many end with a display of fireworks, and some are illuminated with lasers. To get your free ticket collect four different tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week and attach them to the application form right. You can also use the token printed in *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

HOW TO APPLY

A selection of National Trust events appears right and more will appear this week. A full list of 31 events, with the addresses where you should send your tokens for your free ticket, appeared on Saturday and in *The Sunday Times* yesterday. Where you are required to apply to a regional office, a booking key code, AA, BB, CC or DD, is given. Event entry times appear first followed by the time of the performance. You can buy additional tickets when you send for your free ticket. The price of children's tickets varies so you are advised to call the inquiry number 0181 315 1111 on weekdays between 9am-5.30pm. Allow a minimum of nine days to receive your ticket. One application form and four different tokens per free ticket are required. No photocopies of tokens are permitted. This offer is subject to availability and is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Children are aged up to 16.



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BERKSHIRE

Aug 16 Annual Jazz Concert with fireworks, Basilidon Park, Lower Basilidon, Reading. 6.30pm/7pm. £12.50. AA quote ref A34.

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July 18 and 19 Music and Fireworks, Stowe Landscape Gardens, Buckingham MK18 5EH. 5.30pm/6.30pm. £12.50, from above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.

Aug 9 Classical Lanternlight Concert, Claydon House, Middle Claydon. 6.30pm/7.30pm. £14. AA quote ref A32.

CHESHIRE

Aug 10 Royal Fireworks Music with fireworks, Tatton Park, Knutsford. 5pm/7.30pm. £16. BB.

DERBYSHIRE

July 24 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Calke Abbey, Ticknall DE73 1LE. 7pm/7.30pm. £7, from above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.

Aug 15 Richard III, Aug 16 The Tempest, Hardwick Hall, Dog Lea, Chesterfield. 7pm/7.30pm. £8.50 adult, £4 child. CC.

DORSET

July 18 Bournemouth Sinfonietta Orchestra with Fireworks, Kingston Lacy, Wimborne Minster. 5pm/8pm. £12. DD.

MIDDLESEX

Aug 9 Glenn Miller Band Concert, Osterley Park, Isleworth. 5.30pm/7.30pm. £12.50. AA quote ref A33.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Aug 2 Open Air Concert, Clumber Park. 4pm/7pm. £14. CC.

SHROPSHIRE

July 3 The Tempest Aug 9 Richard III, Dudmaston, Quatt, nr Bridgnorth WV15 6QN. 7pm/7.30pm. £7, from above address. Cheques payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd. Enclose a sae.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Aug 30 Last Night of the Proms with fireworks, Shugborough, Milford, nr Stafford. 5pm/7.30pm. £16. BB.

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

TOKEN 2

MOUNTAIN BIKE RACING: CAMARADERIE CARRIES THE DAY AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COME TO SUSSEX

Friends and families give event a good name

By Nick Szczępanik

THE weather was perfect, the setting ideal and the level of sportsmanship exemplary. The fifth English Schools Cycling Association (ESCA) national mountain bike championships yesterday was one of those events that gives its sport a good name.

The opening event of the meeting, at Deer's Leap Park, near East Grinstead in West Sussex, set the tone for the remainder of the day. The long-time leader in the under-15s competition was overtaken in the latter stages of a three-lap race, but it was noticeable that the spectators were urging on all the riders, not just their own sons and daughters.

"You've got to shout for everybody else," Mark Swift, the father of Benjamin, the eventual winner of the boys event, said. "It keeps them all encouraged. They put in as much effort, in their way, as the pros do."

There is a camaraderie among the cycling families. Jamie Harris, who came second, is a good friend of the victor. "We know eight or nine of the riders," Mark Swift said. "The families live miles apart, but everyone's so friendly. You get talking and, when you meet at big nationals, you know everybody."

The Swifts, who hail from

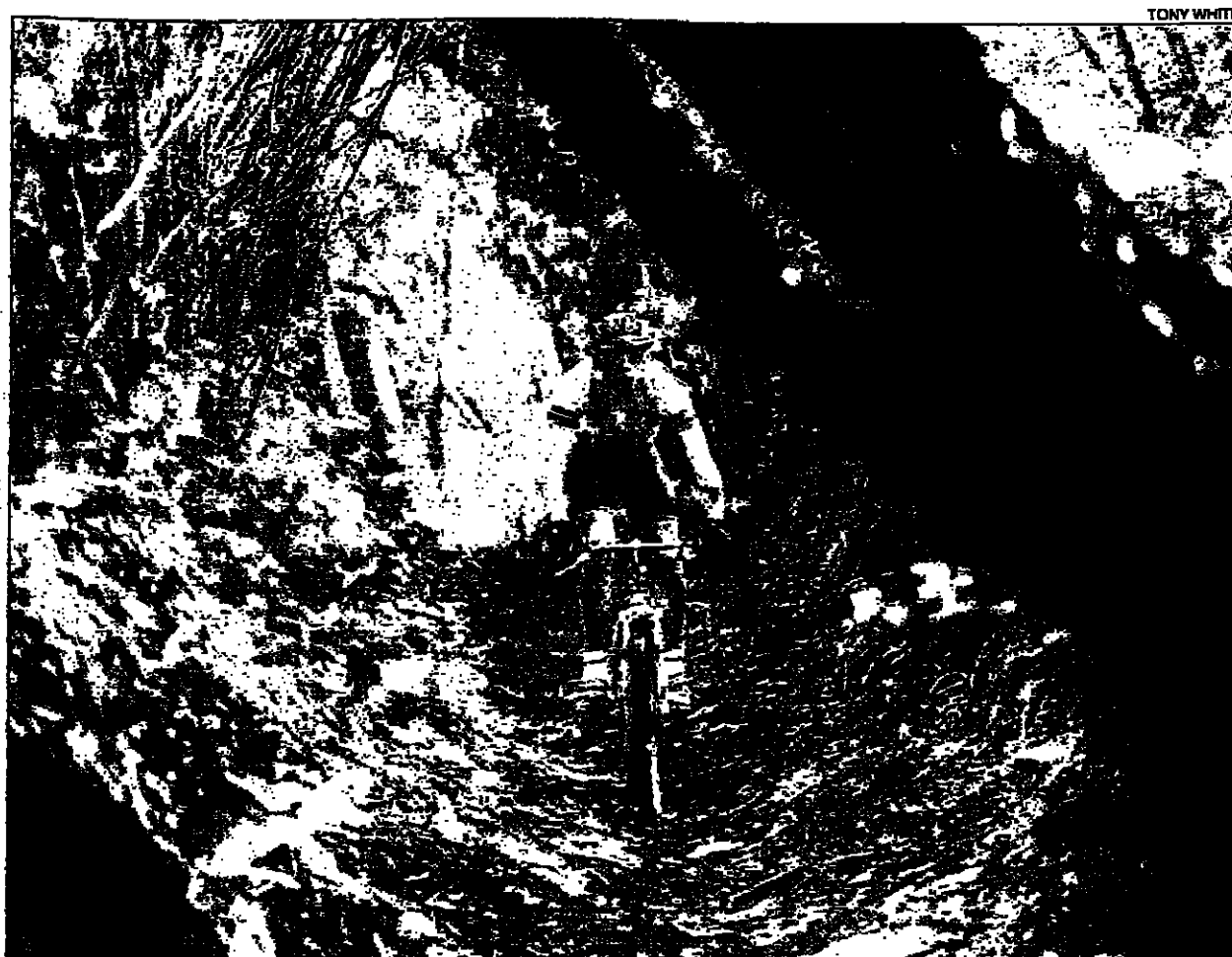
SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Sheffield, had slept overnight in the car, and a soft bed is not the only sacrifice that has to be made, with bikes potentially costing thousands of pounds. Dedicated parents, as in so many sports, are a vital part of an event's success, as Geoff Greenfield, the organiser and ESCA national coach, acknowledged yesterday.

"It relies on parents bringing them," he said, "although one or two schools, particularly in the North, bring pupils to events. This [West Sussex] is one of ESCA's weakest areas in terms of numbers [the strongest are Hampshire, Norfolk, Yorkshire and Humberside] and the idea of holding this event here for the next two years is to build it up."

"It is a good venue that has been made available exclusively to us for the day. The staff are very co-operative."

Chris Reeson, a teacher at West Somerset Community



A competitor negotiates the testing course at the ESCA national mountain bike championships yesterday

SCHOOLS RESULTS

Under-9 girls: Anna Healy (Mansham CP School, Ashford) Under-9 boys: Benjamin Swift (St Josephs RC, Sheffield) Under-11 girls: Anna Glosinski (Rusling College, Sanderson) Under-11 boys: Owen Jones (The Cathedral School, Cardiff) Under-13 girls: Kimberley Walsh (King James School, Huddersfield) Under-13 boys: Steve

Hanson (Dr Chalmers, Beaconsfield) Under-15 girls: Nicola Cooke (Brynmor Comprehensive, Bridgend) Under-15 boys: George Holland (Graveney School, London) Over-15 girls: Christine Hayes (Joleans Park School, Twickenham) Over-15 boys: Joseph Blackwell (Oakwood Park GS, Maidstone)

something missing from your life."

Also missing from the event yesterday, Reeson felt, was a stronger element of inter-school competition. "It would be nice to see more schools represented as schools, to see how we stand against them

rather than compared to clubs," he said.

Those who did attend saw races in five age-groups, from under-nine to over-15, with boys and girls riding together, but in different competitions. The circuit was made progressively more difficult for the

older age-groups. One downhill gully, full of roots, rocks and puddles, was particularly challenging — most riders had to get off and scramble up a slippery section at the end.

Nevertheless, the St John Ambulance had to treat fewer riders than might have been expected. Rosina Arnold, holder of five national under-11 titles, was one early caller. Trying to catch up after a collision, she admitted to "trying to go too fast around a bend", and emerged bandaged but unbowed. It takes more than a suspected broken wrist to put these young enthusiasts off their sport.

MOTOR SPORT

Menu eyes double helping

By Mark Fogarty

ALAIN MENU, of Switzerland, showed no signs of releasing his early grip on the Auto Trader British touring car championship yesterday when he swept to pole position for the ninth and tenth rounds at Oulton Park today.

Menu, in a Williams-run Renault Laguna, was comfortably quicker than the Volvo S40 of Rickard Rydell in qualifying for both races, with Jason Plato shadowing Rydell in each session.

Rydell will only threaten Menu in the second race as he was relegated to the rear of the grid for a rules infringement in the first. His time was disallowed after he failed to stop in the pit-lane for a random check of his car's weight.

His exclusion elevates Plato to second on the grid alongside Menu, who has yet to be beaten from a front-row start. Even with 16 races left to be run, Menu, who has been runner-up in the championship for the past three years, has already laid a firm foundation for his title bid.

Having won five of the first eight races, Menu leads Gabriele Tarquini, the 1994 champion, by 44 points with Rydell a further 11 behind.

The Oulton Park circuit is one of Menu's favourites, its testing layout suiting his precise driving and the sharpness of his Renault's chassis. The extent of his advantage yesterday — about three-tenths of a second — suggests

that he will sprint to victory if he makes his characteristic fast start.

Behind him and Plato on the grid for the first race are Frank Biela, the defending champion, in his four-wheel-drive Audi A4, the Honda Accord of Tarquini, of Italy, and James Thompson, and the other Volvo of Kelvin Burt.

For the second race, Menu is joined on the front row by Rydell, ahead of Plato, Tarquini, Thompson, and John Birtcliffe, Biela's teammate, who recovered from a heavy crash in the first qualifying session. Will Hoy was not so lucky, destroying his Ford Mondeo but escaping without injury in a roll-over accident.

CHINA retained the Sudirman Cup with an easy 5-0 victory over South Korea in the world championships in Glasgow on Saturday.

Resistance from South Korea was significantly weaker than China had faced in the semi-finals from an Indonesia team who still hold the Thomas and Uber Cups and who believe they will win the men's doubles and women's singles titles this week.

The key to the one-sided final was the opening encounter in which Kim Dong-Moon, the Olympic champion, and Ra Kyung-Min, the Olympic silver medal-winner, failed to repeat their group match success against Liu Yong and Ge Fei.

The All England mixed doubles champions.

South Korea had little chance after that and in five matches failed to win even a game, prompting criticism of the custom of compelling meaningless contests when a winning lead has been established. The most notable occurrence was when China preferred Gong Zhichao, 19, in the women's singles instead of Ye Zhaoying, the world champion.

Meanwhile Dan Travers, the Scotland coach, is hoping to increase his country's allocation of players at next year's Commonwealth Games from eight to 14.

This follows Scotland's promotion to group two with a 3-2

victory over Australia, with Anne Gibson beating Lisa Campbell, the Commonwealth champion.

Travers will argue that Scotland is now fourth in the Commonwealth rankings and ready to overtake Canada, and so its player allocation should be increased.

Between now and next year there are reasons to hope for further improvement from Scotland. Lottery funding is about to enable more Scottish players to go to world grand prix tournaments, providing unrivalled preparation and experience for the Games in Kuala Lumpur, and with the prospect of improvements for several players in their world rankings.

BADMINTON

By Richard Eaton

China overpower South Korea

EQUESTRIANISM

Murray on song to complete victory

By Jenny MacArthur

LUCINDA MURRAY, of Great Britain, achieved a notable victory yesterday when she won the Chubb Insurance Windsor International Horse Trials on Andy Brown's Night Flight VII, an eight-year-old mare that she sat on for the first time on Wednesday. "She's brilliant — a really class horse," Murray said after a clear round in the tense showjumping phase.

The win — Murray's first in a three-day event since Blenheim on Just Jeremy in 1990 — came at the expense of Andrea Verdina, of Italy, on Rhyming Lion, the overnight leader, who incurred five faults at the last fence and dropped to second place. Angela Tucker, a dressage trainer and member of the horse trials selection committee, gained her best result at this level for five years when, benefiting from Polly Lyon's five faults on Wat Tyler, she moved up to third. Murray, 31, who is to marry Clayton Fredericks, the Australian event rider, next month, was telephoned only last Sunday, while she was competing at Punchestown, in Ireland, with Lovell Lass, with the offer of Night Flight. Sarah Brown, the mare's usual rider, had sustained a broken arm in a fall and wanted to know if Murray would take Night Flight to Windsor.

On Saturday, relling in the excellent going on Jonathan Warr's well-designed cross-country course, the mare was one of only nine in her section to go clear inside the time. "She was lovely, just like a little kangaroo," Murray said. For the showjumping, in which she needed a clear round to win, Murray took advice from Brown. "If she gets buzzy and starts jumping crooked, just hold on to her and don't panic," was the response.

Earlier, Sarah Watkin, 16, who had been considered too "out of control" across country to be selected for the Courts British junior championship at Windsor, cocked a snook at the selectors when she and Summerhouse Smerf comfortably won the Masterpiece (national) section, finishing the event on their dressage score.

A clear round on the cross-country was followed by a faultless showjumping round from Watkin on her eight-year-old gelding. The performance produced a prompt response from the selectors. After receiving her prize, she learnt that she was to be one of 13 partnerships on the longlist for the junior European championships in Germany in August.

Results, page 36

ROWING

Radley end 16-year wait for repeat eights win

By Mike Rosewell

RADLEY enjoyed the most satisfying victory in the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham when they won the championship eights for the first time in 16 years in what is their 150th anniversary year.

They overcame the set-back of having lost Harvey Goodall, their stroke, two weeks ago when he blacked out while stroking the Great Britain four in Munich. "We knew we had not got the strong crew we had two weeks ago, we had to prove we could do it with seven men and a substitute," Angus McChesney, the Radley coach, said.

St Edward's, the Schools' Head winners, led to 900 metres, closely accompanied by Abingdon. Radley were third, just ahead of Eton, with St Paul's and Hampton trailing. Roman Cantwell, Radley's replacement stroke, then pushed and took the lead, but only one second covered the leading four at halfway before Radley produced a sparkling 250 metres to gain a length, their eventual winning margin.

The battle for silver and bronze saw Eton briefly hold second place before St Edward's re-established themselves, and a late surge by St Paul's then bronze.

Lady Eleanor Holles maintained a five-year unbeaten run in the women's eights. Kingston Grammar, their perennial rivals, threw everything into the first 500 metres and just led, but Holles' faster cruising speed took them away in the second 500. Kingston nearly paid the penalty for their brave start in the closing stages when Headington closed up fast to take bronze.

James Di-Luzio, of Mortlake, won the championship men's sculls, and the prize of a new boat which goes with it. Di-Luzio, who achieved British selection in a double last year and is still only 16, won in Munich two weeks ago when Matthew Wells, from Northumberland, chased him home. It was the same on Saturday. Di-Luzio and Wells left the other four finalists in their wake as they battled for supremacy. Di-Luzio edged it, cutting nearly a minute off the record in the tailwind.

Kate Holton, of Evesham, a junior international in 1996, won the women's sculls just holding off Frances Houghton, her former school colleague at King's Canterbury. Houghton and Isabel Walker, from Scotland, who was fourth, are likely to row, rather than scull, for Britain this summer.

Results, page 36

THE TIMES

21

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http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

Chelsea seeking to reap profit at home and away

The night before Chelsea picked up the FA Cup, the club's management was toasting its own personal victory — the purchase of a travel agent as the final piece in its business set. The £2.3 million deal for EDT, which runs seven travel agents in London, would seem a dangerously confident move to make before knowing if there would be any Cup Winners' Cup matches to arrange travel for.

To Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, though, the club already has enough faraway fans to keep the travel agents in business, even without an extra stint in Europe. Together with the 160-room hotel and four restaurants opening inside its stadium in December, the travel agent would slot in to turn Chelsea into the complete leisure machine.

Chelsea Village is only too aware that, as far as assets go, its players come way down the league. Its jewel is the diversity of its fans — matched only by the depth of their pockets. Stamford Bridge sits in one of the most expensive areas in London and draws supporters from across the capital and beyond. It draws 200 supporters for each match from Scandinavia alone. Stockbrokers, families and regular supporters will pay up to £887 for the most expensive season tickets in Great Britain.

Not content with this, a further 60,000 have parted with £25 each to become members and, in the past six weeks alone, 3,500 have signed up for the Chelsea credit card. Richer members have already reserved 27 of the 56 apartments attached to the stadium, agreeing to pay between £170,000 and £750,000.



The travel agent has been brought in to capitalise on Chelsea's swelling base of overseas fans, who have followed the club's overseas players to create a formidable fan base, accounting for one in ten of the club's members. Chelsea takes this very seriously and has gone so far as to employ someone with the enviable job of flying around the world to set up affiliated supporters' clubs. These fans will come to London to see the team play, spending around £400 for the privilege. The problem is that only £20 of this is passed to Chelsea, the rest is splashed out on the London tourist market. The travel agent's mission is to mop up the rest of their holiday money.

Over the summer, the club will be drawing up package holidays that take in not just the flight to London, but a room in the Stamford Bridge hotel, meals in the Stamford Bridge restaurants and discounts at the merchandising superstore. Home supporters will be offered similar packages for overseas games, as well as being given the chance to book their holiday to Corfu through the club. If this pays off, the club should catch an extra £1 million of the money in the first year alone.

For Chelsea, this is the only way it can move on. While its

FA Carling Premiership rivals are building larger out-of-town stadiums to accommodate more fans and bring in more gate receipts, Chelsea has chosen to stay put and go for profitability over stadium size. This leaves very little room to grow through season tickets; the money must be made elsewhere.

Stamford Bridge will have hit its limit after the new stand is complete. The capacity will be around 41,000 — any space available for more seats for Chelsea Football Club has been gobbled up by the expansion of Chelsea, the village.

The stock market, meanwhile, laps it up. Chelsea Village is already categorised as a property company with a sideline interest in football, and the more money it can make from relatively steady markets, such as tourism, the higher its shares will be pushed. Analysts expect the tourism income to help profits to surge from £400,000 to £5 million next season.

To Alan Shaw, a company director, the moves will create the Chelsea that Matthew Harding, the club's vice-chairman who died last year, enthused about three years ago — a leisure complex with so many operations other than football that its success off the pitch will sustain profits regardless of the team's success.

"If the performance was not there, the hotels would still run, the restaurants would still open and the travel agents would still be operating," Shaw said. "The performance of the team no longer underpins the success of the company, it just enhances value."

FRASER NELSON

BOWLS

Youngsters press case for change

By David Rhys Jones

THE line-up for the England trial at the New Lount club in Leicestershire yesterday revealed that the selectors were ready to experiment after finishing third behind Scotland and Ireland in the home international series last year.

With two exceptions, the rinks pencilled in for the series in Worthing in July looked vulnerable yesterday and the case for making further changes was forcibly put by a clutch of hungry young outsiders.

Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles and indoor pairs champion, who has skipped his rink to ten consecutive victories at international level, steered Andy Wills, Stuart Airey and Richard Moses to a splendid win over Gary Smith, who may lose some of his front end players.

David Ward, too, enjoyed a profitable afternoon in the sun, and was well supported by John Rednall, Robert Newman and Gordon Charlton, who helped him to a 28-13 win over Ted Hanger, one of the 1996 skips.

Those were the successes. David Cutler, still struggling to get fit after a road accident, was beaten 31-13 by Lee Miller; John Bell went down 18-17 to a rink skipped by Rob Stanley; and Andy Thomson lost 19-16 to Danny Denison.

There are so many question marks over the established players, and so many talented challengers pressing for places, that the selection meeting this morning may take some time.

THE TIMES

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There are two routes for the London Bikeathon: the tourist and the scenic. John Goodbody on a good day out

For the fit and the couch potato

The Flora London Marathon has been one of the success stories of British sport over the past 20 years. Hundreds of thousands of people have taken up the challenge to run the mythical marathon distance, many for their satisfaction, others to raise money for charities.

Now, cycling is staging its own mass participation endurance event on the roads of the capital. On Sunday, June 8, hundreds of people will be taking part in the London Bikeathon in aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund and there is still time to join in this healthy and helpful event. More than a thousand entries have already been received, but because they will be split over two routes, there is no limit on numbers and the organisers expect around 1,500.

The course of 26 miles is only a few yards short of a marathon, giving ordinary people an incentive to complete the event but without requiring the extensive training required in running a similar distance.

At the elite level, cycling can

SPORT FOR ALL

be one of the most demanding of all sports. As one who has accompanied (by car) competitors on the Tour de France, I have been rapt with admiration at their physical ability. They will often complete 160 miles day after day, up and down mountains and sometimes through searing heat or steady rain. It is tiring enough sitting in a vehicle, let alone on a bicycle.

However, the Bikeathon is deliberately geared at a less exhausting approach. The distance is long enough for a proper outing for keen cyclists, but not something that needs to be approached with trepidation. Even someone with little

experience of the activity should be able to take part successfully.

Starting and finishing in Battersea Park, where there will be a carnival atmosphere with live music all day, entrants have the choice of two routes across London. The first is the "tourist route", going east through the City and Docklands. The other is the "scenic route", which takes riders through Richmond Park to Ham Common and then back along the riverside.

For the less fit, half-distances may also be cycled. Routes are being fully marshalled, with technical and medical back-up on hand.

The event — the main sponsor of which is Walkers Line crisps — has attracted many people interested in both the convenience and pleasure of cycling. Teams have also entered, many raised by individuals, but others from companies such as Herbert Smith, the City solicitors, Railfreight and the Metropolitan Police.

Many have a personal reason for competing. Typical is Soheila Swanton, who is leading a team of seven from the Royal Free Hospital in Harp-

stead, northwest London, where she carries out research and diagnostics on leukaemia patients.

She cycles daily from her home in Barnes to the hospital, avoiding the roads as much as possible, going through places such as Woodside Park, near Finchley. "It is lovely," she said. "Today, I saw squirrels running about as I cycled to work." It takes her only 40 minutes, 20 minutes less than the Underground.

Born in Iran, Swanton arrived in Great Britain in 1978 and later graduated from the City of London Polytechnic. She began cycling in 1983, while she was studying. "Most students are very short of income, so cycling was a natural thing for me to try," she said. "I lived in Ilford and went by bike to Aldgate most days, a return trip of 18 miles."

She now uses a mountain bike and will often spend weekends with friends cycling in the country. "You get to see places that normally you would not see," she said. "If you are walking, you only go a few miles. You see more on a bike and a mountain bike, which will take you over country paths and even tractor tracks."

"You get the bug and you want to do more. If you haven't done it, you don't know how much fun it is."

As someone who last year cycled all night from Hackney to Suffolk, she should not have any trouble in completing the distance on June 8.

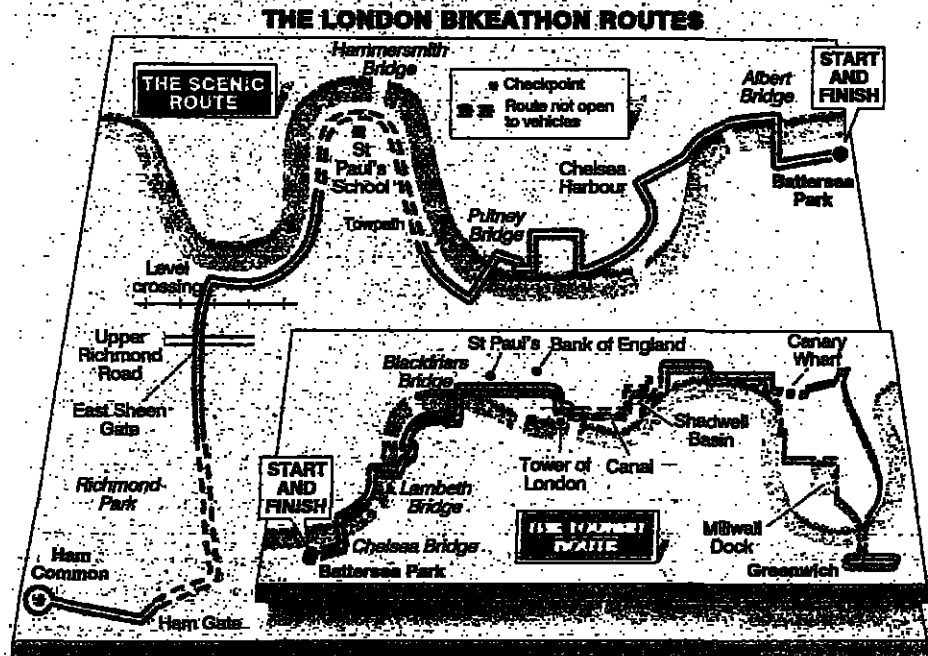
Nor should John Starns, the head of VT at FraneStore, a Soho-based post-production company for film and television, who has finished the 53 miles of the London-to-Brighton event. Out of the 60 employees at FraneStore, 28 are participating.

They are spurred on by the desire to help one of their colleagues who suffers from leukaemia, the condition which, thanks to research, has seen spectacularly successful improvements in the long-term survival of patients over the past 20 years.

Like Swanton, he now uses



Taking part: Swanton says that "you see more on a bike—it will take you over country paths and even tractor tracks"



a mountain bike, but has been cycling since the age of five and used a machine as a boy when he was doing a paper round. In his late teens and early twenties, he did not cycle a great deal during his studies at art college.

"The arrival of the mountain bike revived my interest," he said. "We rode off-road as

kids, but had to adapt our machines by taking off the mudguards and using wide cow-horn handlebars, which helped with the leverage and balance of riding. Mountain bikes were amazing for me. They were so much lighter than the ones we had as kids and have become lighter still over the past ten years."

He cycles regularly at weekends near his Kent home. "It has never been purely a way of keeping fit," he said. "It is so wonderful to explore the countryside. Nearly two months ago, when the apple blossom was out, it was just an amazing sight in Kent. You can drive down a road 50 to 100 times, but then, when you

cycle down the road, you see things you never saw before." The cyclists on June 8 may not have such a rural setting, but hopefully they will notice parts of the capital that they have not seen before. For further information and entry forms, contact the London Bikeathon Office: 0171-405 0101.

COMPETITION

THE TIMES

Fourteen VIP tickets to the Derby to be won



Michael Hills riding the winning horse at the Derby last year.

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to the Vodafone Derby at Epsom on Saturday, June 7. We have seven pairs of tickets to give away worth a total of £5,000 and the winners will enjoy:

- exclusive use of a private box in the Club Stand overlooking the course
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This is one of the highlights of the English season, an exciting and colourful event for non-racegoers as well as regular fans of the turf.

The uphill and downhill, right-handed and left-handed course is a challenge that only well-balanced horses can overcome. The bizarre contours of the track mean that a horse that can act upon it has to be adaptable, a mover with perfect shoulders to handle the track.

The top of the hill is 502 feet above sea level from where it sweeps down a left-handed descent, the gradient becoming steeper as the field approaches Tattenham Corner. The final quirk of the course is on the home straight.

HOW TO ENTER
Simply call our competition hotline 0891 818 187 before midnight on Wednesday with your answer to the following question:

Which jockey won last year's Vodafone Derby?
a) Willie Carson
b) Walter Swinburn
c) Michael Hills

The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

THE VODAFONE DERBY

CHANGING TIMES



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In a recent refresher, I looked at how the fifth card in a suit was often a safe discard. However, as it is such a standard thing to do, it can provide valuable information for the declarer.

Dealer South	North-South game
♠ AKQ2 ♥ Q10 ♦ 10842 ♣ 1032	♠ 95 ♥ 7543 ♦ J6 ♣ Q854
♠ 87 ♥ AK96 ♦ AK95 ♣ 876	

S	W	N	E
1 NT	Pass	2 C	Pass
3 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South Lead: King of clubs

Realising that the dummy would hold four spades, West started off with his three top clubs. East overtook the jack with the queen and cashed the nine. Declarer threw a diamond and West had to find a discard. He chose the all too obvious spade.

East got off play with the jack of diamonds and declarer had to come up with a plan. He had eight tricks on top and it looked as if his best chance for a ninth was a squeeze, but which squeeze? It looked to him as if West had five spades (from his discard) and three diamonds to the queen (because of East's switch to the jack). Declarer won the ace of diamonds and played three rounds of hearts. This reduced everybody to five cards and West could not keep four spades and two diamonds.

Suppose that West had discarded a low heart at trick

four. Then, declarer might have placed him with five hearts and three diamonds, in which case the winning line would be to cash three spades. Again, everyone would be reduced to five cards and West would not have been able to keep four hearts and two diamonds. As the cards lie, declarer would go down.

□ The first Mind Sports Olympiad will be held at the Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, 1997. There will be more than 30 different events. Card games include bridge and gin rummy, and among the board games are backgammon, three types of chess, Go, and Scrabble. Inquiries: David Levy, 0171-485 9146.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ITHYPHALLIC

- a. Fishy
- b. Rude
- c. A pinnacle

FATIDICAL

- a. Prophetic
- b. Big dice
- c. Islamic priest

GLYPHODON

- a. Scholarly mistake
- b. Milk tooth
- c. An extinct armadillo

FARCY

- a. Horse disease
- b. Longsightedness
- c. Ludicrous

Answers on page 42



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Black wins

In the elite tournament in progress in Madrid, ambitious black players are proving successful with a number of sharp counter-attacking systems.

The King's Indian Defence invites White to castle on the opposite wing from Black, with the result that slashing attack and counter-attack becomes the order of the day and in the mêlée Black can often win.

The Grünfeld Defence, which we see in the second game today, is more strategic in nature and tempts White to establish a huge pawn centre that Black then seeks to undermine.

White: San Segundo

Black: Alexei Shirov

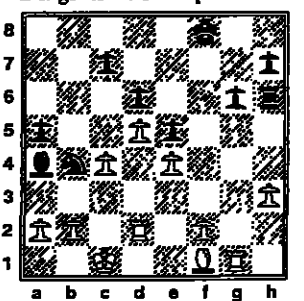
Madrid, May 1997

King's Indian Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 Nf3	g6
3 c4	Bg7
4 Nc3	O-O
5 e4	d6
6 h3	e5
7 d5	a5
8 Be3	Na6
9 Nd2	Nd7
10 g4	Nc5
11 Nb3	Nxb3
12 Qxb3	Qh4
13 Rg1	Bh6
14 g5	h5
15 O-O	Bg7
16 g6	Bh6
17 Na4	Bd7
18 f7+	Rd7
19 Qx7	Bxa4
20 Qxa8+	Rf8
21 Qd8+	Kd8
22 Bxh6+	Qxh6+
23 Rd2	Nb4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Jeroen Piket

Black: Judit Polgar

Madrid, May 1997

Grünfeld Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	g6
3 Nc3	d5
4 Nf3	Bg7
5 cxd5	Nxd5
6 e4	Nc6
7 Bxc3	c5
8 Bb1	O-O
9 Bc2	exd4
10 cxd4	Qxd5+
11 Qd2	Qxd2+
12 Bxc2	b6
13 O-O	Bb7
14 d5	Rc8
15 Bb4	Kf8
16 Rd1	Na6
17 Bxa6	Bxa6
18 e5	Bc2
19 d6	Bxd1
20 Qe7+	Ke8
21 Rxd1	Bh6
22 h4	Rc1
23 Rxc1	Bxc1
24 Bd6	Rc8
25 g3	Kd7
26 Nd4	a6
27 Kf1	f5
28 H4	h5
29 Bx5	Bc3
30 Nf3	Bc5

Black resigns

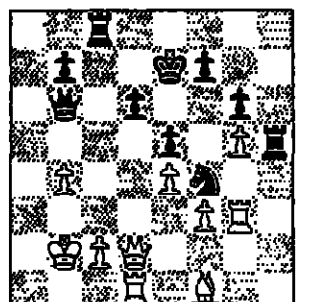
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Yilmaz — Kozul, Pula, 1997.

White's king cover has been seriously compromised by the advance of his b-pawn. How did Black make the most of this weakness in fine tactical style?



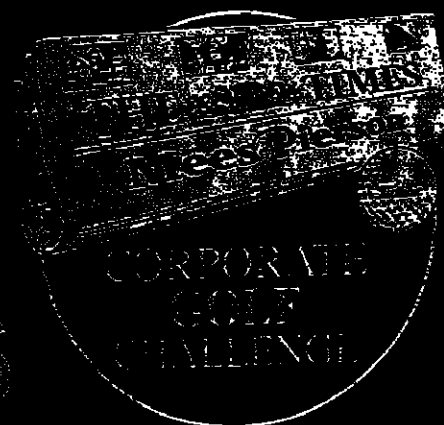
Solution on page 42

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German insider dealing inquiry

Lux changed

Principled way to solve complex road problem

As protesters at Manchester airport dig in for another confrontation with developers, the potential conflict between business and the environment comes under the spotlight once more. But while Swampy (below) and his colleagues grab the headlines, opposition to the development is drawn from a wide range of people. As Shell recently found, environmental issues now attract the attention of serious investors, and business ethics

generally are being weighed up by shareholders. Contractors are faced currently with the dilemma of balancing the need to make money with the demands of environment lobbyists and community groups over plans to build a new road system in rural Blankshire. The first phase has already gone ahead, arousing fierce protests. The Government is determined that the scheme should proceed. Go-Build, a company that has

struggled to survive the recession, is tempted to tender for the contract. How can it proceed while maintaining a high standard of business ethics? That was the question we posed in the *NatWest/The Times Business Ethics* competition. OWAIN EVANS, 18, an economics undergraduate from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, won with this essay, written in the form of a company letter to the shareholders of Go-Build Ltd.

As the newly appointed managing director of Go-Build Ltd, I want to see this company grow under my leadership and become once again a leading force in the construction industry. It is therefore expected that complex and difficult situations will have to be dealt with, one of which regards the construction of a new road system in Blankshire.

The first stage of this project has been completed by another firm that experienced a good deal of disturbance from environmental protesters and a lot of interest from the media. The second stage of this prestigious project is also likely to come under intensive protest and this is something that we must manage carefully if we win the tender.

As a caring company, we are well aware of the ethical issues involved in the construction of this new road. Environmental damage would result from the full-scale development of the present site, but this project would undoubtedly safeguard the company's future and the jobs of all our employees. As a company that is aware of all its stakeholders, we have a duty to these two conflicting groups. The question is how to reconcile them.

The firm intends to bid for the construction of the new road. It is important for Go-Build Ltd to do this — first because it offers job security to workers who would otherwise have been made redundant, and secondly because the Government is one of our largest clients. A reluctance to take on this project might result in fewer government orders.



take on this project might result in fewer government orders.

For these reasons, it has been tempting to put in an extremely competitive bid to ensure that it was accepted and so safeguard the future of the company. However, this approach is unsatisfactory. While it might protect jobs in the short term it is likely to damage the firm's prospects in the future. The development of the new road is bitterly opposed by members of the local community and by environmental protesters. Therefore, if our bid was accepted, we could expect our AGM to be disrupted and our progress on the project to be severely affected, as was seen during the building of the Newbury bypass. This would necessitate a large amount of money being spent on security, which is likely to virtually eliminate any profit generated.

As a result of these issues, I suggest a possible solution to the dilemma. As a firm, we need to take into account not only our costs when making a bid but, if we are to act ethically, we must take into account the effects on the environment. To help us do this we have formulated a number of principles based on those of an American organisation called Ceres (The Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies). These principles are a moral code of environmental conduct for firms and include the following points that are relevant to the building of the road:

- 1. Information for the general public.
- 2. Protection of the environment from damage when carrying out the project.
- 3. Safe disposal of waste.
- 4. Environmental restoration of the site after development.

By adopting these principles we are showing that not only has Go-Build Ltd a commitment to its shareholders, clients and employees but also to the environment and to people who live in the area affected by the road. In our bid for the tender we have used a method known as Environmental Cost Accounting, which has been developed by a leading consultancy firm to measure the costs and benefits to a society from schemes such as this. Obviously there are some benefits from the new road, such as the reduction in travelling times, better communications and a reduction in the number of accidents. On the other hand, the costs involved are the damage to the environment, i.e. to woodlands and pathways, and an increase in pollution.

Our bid takes these factors into account and tries to cover these external costs. Go-Build Ltd would use this money to repair the environmental damage. We could consult with local groups and schools as to the best way to do this but possible ideas could include planting trees, the setting up of nature areas and the movement of any threatened wildlife to a new, safer location. Throughout the project we will inform the public of our plans and will act ethically by following the Ceres principles. As a result, our bid is unlikely to be the cheapest, but we hope that the Government, when awarding the tender, will realise that, over a longer period of time, the extra resources used on protecting the environment now will save money in the future.

Some opposition to the road may still exist but it should be reduced as Go-Build Ltd will have provided an answer that would certainly reduce any damage to the environment. However, there still remains the possibility that we will not be successful in our bid and, if not, we will be in no worse a position than at present.

Our conclusion, therefore, is that this solution, while not perfect, does address the problems faced. The road is necessary for the area and for the country, and Go-Build Ltd would benefit from the income which would safeguard many jobs.

The environmental costs are reduced and, therefore, this idea offers the best compromise between all participants in the scheme. Go-Build Ltd believes that good, ethical business practices will make the firm profitable.



Evans: approach based on impact assessment

revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS

The Society's standard variable base rate for existing borrowers will be increased to 7.49% from 1st June 1997 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

REVISED INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE AT 1st JUNE 1997

AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS %	NET %	GROSS % (MONTHLY)	NET % (MONTHLY)
CURRENT LEVEL				
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT				
£200,000 - £300,000	4.00	3.20	-	-
NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2)/NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)				
(INCLUDING CLOSED SALES, TRANSFERRED ON MATURE)				
(NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2))				
£50,000 - £100,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.04
£100,000 - £150,000	3.25	2.60	3.25	2.60
£150,000 - £200,000	2.50	2.00	2.50	2.00
£200,000 - £250,000	2.20	1.76	-	-
£250,000 - £300,000	2.00	1.60	-	-
TESSA 3				
£1 - £10,000	6.65	-	-	-
SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				
£1 - £999	3.00	2.40	-	-
INSTANT ACCESS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				
£50,000 - £100,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.04
£100,000 - £150,000	3.25	2.60	3.25	2.60
£150,000 - £200,000	2.50	2.00	2.50	2.00
£200,000 - £250,000	2.20	1.76	-	-
£250,000 - £300,000	2.00	1.60	-	-
NOVA STAR (EIGHTH ISSUE)				
£100,000 - £150,000	6.00	4.80	5.75	4.60
CREDIT RATES				
NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS ACCOUNT				
(INCLUDING CLOSED SALES, TRANSFERRED ON MATURE)				
(NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS)				
£50,000 - £100,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.04
£100,000 - £150,000	3.25	2.60	3.25	2.60
£150,000 - £200,000	2.50	2.00	2.50	2.00
£200,000 - £250,000	2.20	1.76	-	-
£250,000 - £300,000	2.00	1.60	-	-
SMALL SAVERS ACCOUNT				
£1 - £999	3.00	2.40	-	-
NOVA SELECT II				
£25,000 - £50,000	5.90	4.72	5.65	4.52
£50,000 - £75,000	5.75	4.60	5.50	4.40
NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT				
£200,000 - £300,000	4.00	-	-	-
TESSA & TESSA 2				
£1 - £9,000	6.65	-	-	-
DIRECT 50				
£100,000 - £200,000	7.15	5.72	6.90	5.52

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What we really, really want?

Here and Now: Girl Power
BBC1, 7.30pm

To see the Spice Girls perform, you can turn to the *Royal Gala* on ITV after this programme. For an examination of the Spice Girls as a phenomenon stay right here as Sue Lawley and an all-female team of reporters look at the ramifications of a band that has come from nowhere and is now everywhere. Lawley herself looks at how the Spice Girls were made and sold, while the Radio 1 disc jockey Jo Whiley puts girl power in a longer perspective by tracing it back to the Suffragettes. Other items cover the growth of tribute bands, a huge gathering of Spice Girl wannabes, and feature five friends who follow the group's philosophy. The underlying question is whether the fab five are the feminists of the 1990s or merely represent a brilliant, and perhaps ephemeral, piece of marketing.

A Royal Gala
ITV, 8.00pm

These occasions always spark a mixed reaction. The show is seldom more than a hotchpotch of artists doing their familiar turns but it is all for a good cause, and no charity has its heart more in the right place than The Prince's Trust. The Prince of Wales will probably feel it is worth having his cheeky pickled by the Spice Girls, and even being obliged to sit through their act, in order to raise funds for helping young people. As on previous Prince's Trust bashes, the hosts, at the Opera House in Manchester, are David Frost and Joanna Lumley. If you have heard his jokes before, you can still enjoy them. As for the Spice Girls, they are a sight to behold. The show is a mix of comedy and music, with a variety of acts including Michael Barrymore, Phil Collins, Gary Barlow and Friends star turned shampoo saleswoman, Jennifer Aniston.

Lenny's Big Amazon Adventure
BBC1, 8.30pm

Lenny Henry braves the Amazon rainforest to complete a loose survival trilogy that has seen Lenny on a desert island and Billy Connolly in the Arctic. It makes a highly entertaining hour as well as a disturbing one, for among the jokes and the eye-rolling and the impromptu



Spice Girl wannabes (BBC1, 7.30pm)

impersonations of David Bellamy, Tommy Cooper and Charlie Drake there are serious reflections on what it is like to spend dark and lonely nights under a mosquito net with a steady din making sleep impossible. Although Henry is accompanied for most of the time by an SAS veteran who knows all the wrinkles, and does his best to pass them on, there is no disguising the ordeal. "One day, you know, I'm going to laugh at this," declares Henry in one of the regular asides to camera. At the time it is mostly the laughter of desperation and fear.

Birds of a Feather
BBC1, 9.30pm

The gormless, from Chigwell and their nymphomaniac neighbour are back to regale us with their shrill and vulgar humour. The new series is given a kick start with the impending release of the husbands from prison, to the delight of Tracey (Linda Robson) and dismay of Sharon (Pauline Quirke). But little else has changed. The sisters continue to bicker amicably and Dorien, gloriously played by Lesley Joseph, still pops in with details of her latest sexual conquests. Sue Teddem's script fits so snugly into the format created by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran that fans of the show are in no danger of being short-changed. But the thought occurs that Sharon and Tracey were essentially creatures of the Thatcher years. Do Essex girls have the same resonance under new Labour? Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Bruce Chatwin
Radio 3, 9.40pm

The subject of this new series wrote only six books before he died of AIDS in 1989 at the age of 48. *The Songlines*, his fourth novel, was the first to become a best seller. Chatwin's reputation has grown since his death but the interest has been fuelled as much by his eccentricity and his compulsion to travel as by the writing itself. Susannah Clapp, who was Chatwin's editor, presents the series and indeed is something of a literary heroine in relation to Chatwin, for it was Clapp who turned a rambling manuscript into his first book, *In Patagonia*. The series simply demonstrates how Chatwin kept his readers, and the critics, guessing by using real experiences in his fiction and inventing, or at least exaggerating, for some of his non-fiction.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Goodier 12.00 Jo Whiley 3.00pm Kevin Greaves 6.30 Newsbeat 6.35 Justin Robertson's Manchester Mix 8.30 Live Music 8.40 Music Line 9.30-10.30 Saturday Night Takeaway 11.30 What's the Story? 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warner

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Leslie 7.30 Wake Up to Vogue 8.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Glastonbury Interviews Shirley Bassey, 1.00pm Beyond Our Ken (1) 1.30 Diane Lousie Jordan 3.00 Ed Sheeran 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Championship Snook 10.00 Evening with Tony Bennett 10.30 Richard Allison 12.00am Jon Briggs 3.00 Adrian Feggetter

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mike Read 2.00pm Sport on Five 3.00pm Division One play-off final from Wembley; golf: the first round of the PGA Championship at Wentworth; tennis: the first day of the French Open in Paris; rugby league coverage of the day's Super League matches 5.30 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Rugby League 8.30 Work Out 10.00 Island Line 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy West 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Liz O'Leary 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mike Dees's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

The Monday Play: Days in the Trees
Radio 4, 7.45pm

Not a new play but a new adaptation, by Peter Tengel, of the original by Marguerite Duras. The story concerns what might be called the other sexual triangle, involving mother, son and the son's mistress. The son is a playboy addicted to gambling, a man who knows he is failing but who also knows that he is incapable of changing. When the son and his latest woman are visited by his mother, the symbiotic nature of their relationship is exposed with all its tensions, underpinned by the fact that the son's lifestyle is entirely dependent on his mother's money. The production brings together Rachel Kempson and her son, Corin Redgrave as the pivotal characters while the mistress is played by Emma Fielding. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 News of Nations 7.30 Omnibus 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Vintage Craft Show 9.15 Through the 8.15 in. Question Time 10.05 Business 10.15 Vision of Reality 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.20 Omnibus 12.30pm Jazzmaster 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 2.05 Outlook 3.00 Top Stories 4.05 Sport 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 Seven Days 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Countdown 8.00 Culture 8.25 Focus on Theatre 8.30 Melodrama 9.00 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Danger Squad 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Melodrama 1.30 Keep to the Path Through Europe 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Seven Days 2.45 A Prime View 3.30 On Screen 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Goodier 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hit of Fame Hour 10.00 Nick Baskin 1.00pm Chris Schumann Special 3.00 Jamie Cullum 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Scotland 8.00 Concert. Chabrier (Espana); Agadeo (Variations on the Fandango); Rimsky-Korsakov (Capriccio); Espagnole (No. 34); Ravel (Rhapsodie Espagnole); Albeniz (Asturias, Leyenda); Liszt (Rhapsodie Espagnole); Lalo (Symphonie Espagnole) 10.00 Michael McPhail 2.00am Lunchtime Concerto (1)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russi (1) 10.00 Graham Dine 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyne (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Week Forecast 2.00am Rendel Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Spohr (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 133); Busoni (Suite for Violin and String Quartet); Faure (Cello Sonata No 1 in D minor)

9.00 Morning Collection. Cations Young begins a survey of the Mozart piano sonatas. Includes: Mozart (Piano Sonata in D minor, Op No 10; Trumpet Concerto in E flat; Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K 279); Smetana (From Bohemia's Woods and Fields, Ma Vlast)

10.00 Midland Ensemble. Live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Mark Rowland's guests are the pianist John Gough and Peter Seymour, and the concert player Crispian Steele-Perkins. Includes: Overture; Caravelli; Mozart (Bass); Holby; Windmills; Ireland (Solo); The Scarlet Cereonians; John Stanley (Trumpet Voluntary); Buxton (An John Gay Suite); Sargent (An Impromptu on a Windy Day)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Korngold. 1.00pm Newsday. Live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Brian Kay presents a programme of brass music featuring the Black Dyke Band under musical director James Watson. Includes a piece composed by Michael Bate

2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Philharmonic, conductor Van Pascal Tortelet. Kathryn Stott, soprano (Suite, The Firebird 1944); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in c minor); Lisowski (Concerto for Orchestra)

3.45 Jazz à La. The second of a four-part series in which Hil looks at the life and work of the singer, lyricist and composer Peggy Lee, who celebrates her 77th birthday today

4.15 Music Restored: Radio 3 Early Music Young Artists Showcase 1997. The counterpoint Robin Stiles is accompanied on harpsichord and organ by Andrew Smith in music by Purcell, Handel and Byrd (1)

5.00 The Music Machine. Verity Sharp follows the features of four young composers commissioned to write new pieces for a quartet of musicians as part of the BBC's Talent 2000 initiative

5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Whelan. Includes Weber (Overture; Der Freischütz); C.F.E. Bach (Symphony in E minor, BWV 1017); Franck (Prelude, Choral and Fugue)

7.15 BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Live from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth. Julian Rachlin, violin (Violin Concerto in D) 8.15 A View from Bridgewater: The Welsh poet Gillian Clarke reflects on her experiences as poet-in-residence at the city's new concert hall, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

8.40 Bruce Chatwin. See Choice

10.00 Velocities. John Burnside introduces a selection of songs by Elton John, including: With Karl Diamond, bassist, and Ingrid Jacob, piano

10.30 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Philharmonic, conductor Van Pascal Tortelet. Kathryn Stott, soprano (Suite, The Firebird 1944); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in c minor); Lisowski (Concerto for Orchestra)

11.30 Composer of the Week: Korngold. 12.30am Jazz à La. The second of a four-part series in which Hil looks at the life and work of the singer, lyricist and composer Peggy Lee, who celebrates her 77th birthday today

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 6.40 Letters from Over Ham. Former American ambassador to London, Raymond Seitz reflects on election fundraising 6.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Times columnist Malvin Briggs and guests

10.00 Newsday Diary (FM). The singer and musicologist Barb Junger talks about her experiences at a choral workshop in Malawi

10.00 Daily Service (LW). The first of a week of programmes marking the 1,400th anniversary of the arrival in England of St Augustine. A service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, with the Canterbury Christ Church Chamber Choir. The Director of Music is Stephen Barker

10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes a quiz focusing on women's contributions to the film industry with Meera Syal and Lisa Harrow

11.30 Nothing, Ian Peacock explores the concept of nothing, is it possible for someone to really know nothing?

12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer (news and current affairs with Mark Whitaker

12.25pm Brain of Britain. The nationwide general knowledge quiz reaches the north west of England. With Robert Robinson 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clegg

1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Diamonds. The second of a trilogy of radio plays by John Peacock chronicling the journey of a diamond. With Jonathan Firth and Tracy Ann Oberman

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Water talks to members of the Halle orchestra as they rehearse Billy Budd

4.45 Short Story: An English Weekend, by Alan Lewis. Read by Philip Madoc

5.00 PM, with Charles Lee Potter and Jeremy Vire 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz. Chaired by Glynis Hoggart. With the panelists Francis Wrenn, Clive Anderson, Jeremy Hardy and Times columnist Alan Coren (1)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme. Natalie Whelan travels to Hono Kono, the city of her childhood, to sample the wide variety of delicacies (1)

7.45 The Monday Play: Days in the Trees. See Choice

8.00 When She Comes Back. The story of how the Jewish writer Eva Tuckler and her mother escaped from Berlin in 1939. Read by Lale Lloyd, Colleen Prendergast and Jane Withershaw (1)

9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Month in the Country, by J.L. Carr. Read by Samuel West (1/8) (1)

11.00 The World Tonight. Susan MacGregor puts questions to Denise Coffey, Christopher Cook, Philippe Grogan and Michael Schmidt (1)

11.30 Finny Summer. Jane Cassidy's dramatisation of the novel by Maeve Binchy. With David Soul and Anne Hely (3/6) (1)

12.00 News; End 12.22am Approx Weather 12.30am Late Border: A White Horse with Pins, by James Haver. Read by Michael Sheen (5/8) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

WORD-WATCHING

هكذا عن الأصل

last week. Denselow traced the 30-year battle that Kabila has waged, spoke to fighters who confirmed that Che Guevara had trained them in the 1960s and explained how much of Kabila's struggle had been financed by gold mining.

The bizarre is never far away in a revolution and we met the new finance minister, whose first contact with Kabila came via the Internet, and the new Interior Minister, whose previous job had been chasing bail-breakers for the district attorney's office in Philadelphia, and about a new economic policy in the new Congo, the former cited, of all people, Ronald Reagan.

Kabila himself was interviewed by Denselow, but revealed no philosophy. Bits of Marx, bits of this, bits of that: he said we would have to wait and see. As it is, he can hardly be worse than the despot Mobutu, which is not to say

Peter
Barnard

There are occasions when the past informs the present, a truth demonstrated in a revealing edition of *Correspondent* (BBC2, Saturday) in which Robin Denselow visited Laurent Kabila, the new President

Kabila himself was interviewed by Denselow, but revealed no philosophy. Bits of Marx, bits of this, bits of that: he said we would have to wait and see. At least he can hardly be worse than the despot Mobutu, which is not to say

CHANNE

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videotext decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponders 63 are: picture: 10.2075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am-5 News Early (63211171)
7.30 HavaKavim (5146591) 8.00 Mr M. Little Miss (2570355) 8.05 Adv. of the Bush Patrol (6635243) 8.25 of the Lost (4112682) 9.00 King (2033335)
10.00 Exclusive (7610249) 10.30 Art (81807532)
11.00 Lezza Chat show hosted by Gibbons (9742220) 11.50 Espresso Tr (34043510) 12.00 T

1.00 5 News Update (49494510) 1.05
Besch (5155133) 2:00 5's Comp
entertainment (757782)

3.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
(1992) with Elias Koteas, Page Tu
Stuart Wilson The pizza-loving
bians come to the rescue when
thrown back in time to the year
Directed by Stuart Gillard (392444)


5.20 Anything's Possible (35932133) w
host (9848713)

5.30 100 Per Cent The game show w
host (9848713)

6.00 Whittle Audiance participation

6.30 Family Affairs Chris feels left out of celebrations (T) (9836978)

7.00 Exclusive Showbiz news (611212)





Magellan penguins (7.30pm)

home to grow into with your young
(T) (2936187)

8.30 5 News (1362882)

9.00 Revenge of the Nerds IV: Ne-
o Love (1994) with Robert Ca-
Loris Armstrong and Stephen D-
made-for-television sequel to the
stick teenage comedy about a g-
weedy university misfit. Directed
Kanew (909501711)

10.45 The Jack Docherty Show Ch-
o comedy (1682065)

11.25 We Know Where You Live In
o sketch show (6528336)

11.55 Live and Dangerous Sports m-

ANNEL

Magie and Micahs
Ming (1370268) 10.00
10.00 Myxerex, Misp
1171 11.20 Worldwide
10.20 Nightmare
The Twilight Zone
of the Unpredicted
the 13th (642424)
Power (115595)

4.00am Prisoner: Cell Block H (4740
5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (p) (2081793)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (1303342)
Gloams and Glamour (7488713)
Garden Elliott Show (7770807)
Springer Live (3895274) 11.00 Th

Late Hour to Hour (80456) 1.30 M
ng (10891) 2.30 The Byrds of
(51263) 3.30 My Two Dogs 5.00
The Fall Guy (29176) 5.15 H
Shopping (14540)

[illegible]

Parking Points (4:28-30)
 Marmars (4:20-36) 9.00
 Discovery
 (11:00-11:23) 10.00
 (11:23-11:52) 10.00
 The Small
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6.20 Challenge TV's
6.30 (216107) 6.30
8.15 7.05 Winner Take
9.15 7.40 Glee Us A Cue
and Up (342249) 9.00
10.00 (353794) 9.05 Chai-
son (78516) 9.35 Sals
11.30 10.05 Treasure
Ships (301341) 12.00
12.00 12.30am Family

Carol Vorderman presents (7.30pm)

Gary Barlow sings Five (8:00pm)

2

CHANNEL

Magic and Miracles
dings (1370268) 10.00
10.50 Mysteries, Magic
3171 11.30 Worldwide
046) 12.00 Nightmare
am The Twilight Zone

Late Hart to Hart (80466) 1.30 M
ing (10891) 2.30 The Byrds of
(51263) 3.30 My Two Dads (163
The Fall Guy (22176) 5.00 HS
Shopping (41640)

UK LIVING

0.00pm The... (20001) 11.00pm The...

HOME

Home (762727) 9.30
7-11 10.00 HomeTime
HomeTime (768595)
Home (538613) 11.30
Home (768595)
Future (768442)
morit Home (879644)
HomeTime (727974) 2.00 HomeTime
Home (5823997)
Home (432572) 3.30-4.00
Home (5442)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (1354072) 7.30
Sambhal Ke (2485917) 8.00am
Angare (2365153) 8.30am Out and
In (2365153) 9.00am Gend
(1458551) 11.30am Kunkusha (51
12.00 Parmpara (2366220) 7.30
Rashai (8695097) 1.00 FILM: K
(2300826) 4.00 ZEE Zee
(8682436) 4.00 Pake Pake 16
4.30 Hum Paray (6842133) 5.1
Time (3710733) 6.25 Ze
(778568) 6.00 Uss
(3619804) 8.30 Zee To You 6.5
7.00 Uss Countdown (917412)

News (5669301) **5.00**
 6.00 Our Century
 Biography: Wild West
 (474084)

TV

11:45C an hour.
 12:37P 6259 5.00 Family
 9.20 Challenge TV
 1.30 2181071 6.30
 7.05 Winners Take
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 (683794) 9.25 Challenge
 on (78816) 9.25 Sale

News and European (1079133)
 Salsab (3751214) 9.05 FILM:
 (6789921) 11.30-12.00 Shu Ch
 (7899224)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel.
 NEWS, interviews, live concert telecasts
 and the latest music videos.
 Includes 5.00am Kickstart 9.00
 M.U. 2.00pm Has Non-Stop 6.30
 7.00 MTV Ball 9.00 Singled Out
 Beats and Butted 1.00am Night

VH-1

133) 10,05 Treasure
Sheds (30134): 12.00
668) 12.30am Family



ROGER BOOTLE 40

Economics no match for the new religion

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 26 1997

BUSINESS

PRIZEWINNER 42

Principled way to solve road problem



Unions press for action on jobs

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNION leaders will call today for the Government to adopt specific economic measures aimed at increasing employment and growth.

The move by trade unions from the main industrialised countries comes ahead of a European-wide push by unions for the European Union to adopt a new employment chapter in its governing treaty with the specific target of increasing jobs.

It coincides with the annual council meeting of ministers from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development being held in Paris today and tomorrow.

Helen Liddell, Treasury Financial Secretary, will lead the UK's team at the OECD meeting, and the head of the union delegation, Rodney Bickerstaffe from Unison, the UK public services union, will today press for high-quality jobs. He says: "People at work across the industrialised world are fed up with being told that they must continually make sacrifices in the name of competitiveness when they see profits soar."

The OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council is calling for macroeconomic policies that will "raise sustainable growth and employment". The OECD unions' move will be echoed this week by unions from across the EU, with those in the UK stepping up the pressure for an EU-wide employment chapter to be part of the new European treaty that is expected to be signed at next month's summit in Amsterdam.



The Patent Office, where Jodie Williams is an administrative assistant in the classification library, is moving with the times and offering advice on intellectual property through a World Wide Web site. <http://www.patent.gov.uk> will provide a newcomers' guide to patents

Andersen forced to pay £23m over PFI project

By Jason Nisse

ANDERSEN Consulting, one of the multinational outsourcing groups bidding for billions of pounds of government work, was forced to pay back £23 million to the Contributions Agency to save a troubled Private Finance Initiative project, a report will reveal this week.

The figure emerges after a

National Audit Office investigation into the long-delayed £500 million contract to computerise the National Insurance Records. The NAO will publish the findings from its investigation into the project on Thursday.

The scheme, known as NIRS II, was to have been largely completed by February, but because of hitches and contract renegotiations it will not go fully live before next February at the earliest.

Andersen won the deal to revamp the NIRS system, which is part of the Contributions Agency in Newcastle upon Tyne, two years ago. Its bid, of less than £100 million a year for seven years, was believed to have been about £30 million lower than that of its nearest rivals, the US groups Electronic Data Systems and Computer Sciences Corporation.

But the project was only a few months old when it first

ran into problems and Andersen had to renegotiate the deal. Ian Watmore, head of government practice at Andersen, said: "I took over the project in January last year and realised the implementation schedule was unrealistic. It is now back on track."

Instead of the whole project going live last February, only the computerisation of the payments records - covering 65 million accounts - was completed by that time. The second part, covering pensions, is due in October and the whole system should be up and running by next February.

Andersen paid a penalty clause and agreed to cover the Contributions Agency's costs for a year to change the contract - a total of £23 million. However, there have been operational difficulties. The communications part of the system was unable to handle the transfer to British

summer time and the computers crashed. Andersen had used an American package with the later US summer time start. The Contributions Agency said: "Arrangements are now in hand to make sure this does not happen again."

The report comes at a potentially embarrassing time for Andersen. It is hoping that its connections with the Labour Party will stand it in good stead for future outsourcing deals.

Andersen is bidding in competition with three other groups, Sema, Capita and BML, for a £700 million contract from the Benefits Agency to manage the system of referrals to doctors.

Harriet Harman, Social Security Secretary, will decide in the next few weeks whether to proceed with this programme.

Shortly after that she will decide whether to go ahead with the first part of Change, a

massive programme at the DSS. This includes the selling off of the benefit offices, contracting out information technology requirements and transferring up to 30,000 staff to the private sector.

Andersen is bidding with ICL for the Accord element of the Change programme - which will outsource the whole IT of the Benefits Agency. Its main rivals for this deal, expected to be worth more than £15 billion, are EDS, which is bidding with IBM, and BT, working with Bull, the French group.

Andersen has been involved with a number of high profile problem contracts in the past, most notably with Taurus, the Stock Exchange system that was ditched after the exchange and its member firms had spent more than £400 million, and at Wesssex Health Authority, where a contract said to be costing £7 million ended up costing at least £29 million.

British Steel tells suppliers to cut prices

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH STEEL is pressing thousands of its suppliers across the country to cut prices as the company pushes through a massive five-year, cost-saving programme. Managers at British Steel plants are meeting suppliers - many of whom are local companies largely dependent upon the steel group for their livelihood - after a series of letters that are believed to have demanded price cuts of more than 10 per cent.

Suppliers are desperately trying to resist the price squeeze but British Steel, which is cutting thousands of jobs, is sticking to its demands, blaming tough world prices and the strength of sterling. A spokesman for the company, said yesterday: "Large buyers of steel, such as the motor industry, put pressure on us to cut prices. As a large purchaser ourselves we must look at how we can reduce costs."

British Steel says that it is trying to work with suppliers on potential price reductions. It is thought to be trying to encourage cuts of about 12½ per cent in order to meet its own targets for plants. In section plates and commercial steel, for example, centres such as Souththorpe and Tees-side are trying to reduce the cost of producing a tonne of steel by £25. A basic tonne of

steel costs about £200 to produce.

Letters have been sent by the managing directors of all British Steel's plants to suppliers calling for talks on cutting prices. Some preliminary talks have already taken place.

British Steel uses a lot of local businesses to supply its everyday needs for items such as grease and oil. But other suppliers, such as those that produce machinery for the plants, will be affected. It is possible the company could make some of its purchases overseas if it cannot exact the prices it wants.

More than 10,000 jobs are being cut from British Steel after the five-year cost-cutting programme was recently escalated to combat the damage of the strong pound. The company, which employs 43,000 people in the UK, quickened its job reduction plan of 1,000 a year for five years after sterling jumped in strength late last year and continued its high value in the first few months of this year. Talks are under way with union leaders at local level over the cuts, which are expected to affect managerial staff as well as those in production.

A clearer picture of the impact of sterling on British Steel will be revealed next month when the company produces its year-end results.

Halifax auction deadline today

By Martin Waller

A TEAM of registrars at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Bristol will today create the last batch of notifications from those members of the Halifax Building Society who want to sell their shares ahead of next month's £12 billion flotation of the Halifax Building Society.

Calls to *The Times* over the bank holiday weekend revealed a number of Halifax members who were concerned at missing today's deadline. This was set for those wishing to sell their shares in the first auction, before the formal flotation on June 2.

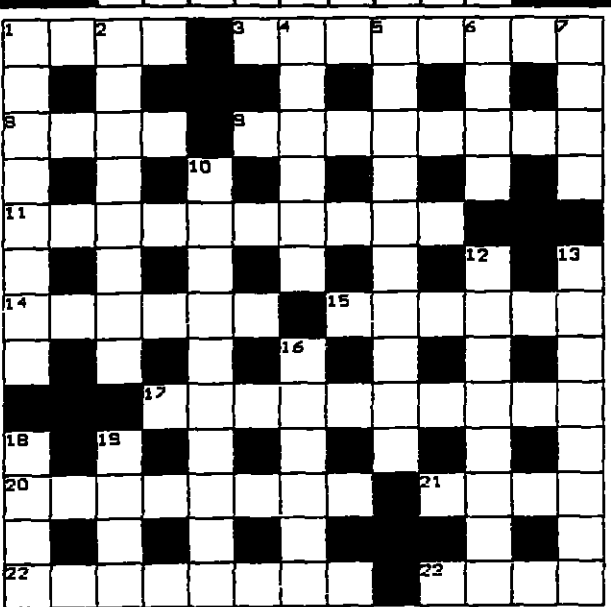
Some members were concerned that if they missed the deadline they would lose their

entitlement to free shares. A spokesman for the Halifax assured them last night that, while they still had to apply for the shares, these would be forthcoming, however late their applications arrived.

The Halifax plans further auctions on behalf of members who do not wish to retain their shares. "If you aren't going to sell them, there's no particular deadline," he said.

The RBS, as the Halifax's registrar, has arranged special deliveries with the Royal Mail over the holiday weekend. But only those opting for an immediate sale by Saturday morning can expect to be included in the first auction.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1103

ACROSS

- 1 Fool: drugs low-down (4)
- 3 Ill-feeling (3,5)
- 8 Henry VI's school (4)
- 9 Reverie (8)
- 11 Gray's Elegy churchyard (5,5)
- 14 Apophoristic (6)
- 15 Much smaller (6)
- 17 Separated by huge gulf (5,5)
- 20 A taking on, over (8)
- 21 Fish sounds like piano maintenance (4)
- 22 (American) lawyer (8)
- 23 Quick kiss; bushel (4)

DOWN

- 1 Horse obedience event (8)
- 2 Formal rules, etiquette (8)
- 4 Female warrior: a river (6)
- 5 Bird: *Grube* / *grub* (anag.) (10)
- 6 S-shaped moulding (4)
- 7 Hemispherical cover (4)
- 10 Chopper; 5 briefly, for example (10)
- 12 Remove misconception (5)
- 13 Rowdy group of celebrities (4,4)
- 16 Withdraw, annul (6)
- 18 Nordic tale of heroes (4)
- 19 Boxing match: spell of illness (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1102

- ACROSS: 1 Make 3 Mentally 9 Spoke 10 Flannel
11 Unkempt 12 Fair 14 Alpaca 16 Clutch 18 Stew 19 Haworth
22 Utopian 23 Tenor 24 Effigies 25 Defy
DOWN: 1 Muscular 2 Knock spots off 4 Effete 5 Tearful
6 Lunatic fringe 7 Yell 8 Seem 13 Lethargy 15 Cowling
17 Change 20 Wait 21 Mute

SOLUTION TO SPRING HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Clip-on 4 Accolade 9 Sustenance 15 Every cloud has a silver lining 17 Steeple 18 Aides-de-camp 19 Courier
20 Avalanche 22 Hindustani 24 Child 26 Extra 28 Roughcast
30 Renaissance 31 Satanist 33 Accepted 34 Immobile 37 On your marks 39 Montana 41 Delphic 43 Endless 44 Botanic
45 Caterpillar 46 Parnassian 49 Lamp-post 51 Lawrence
53 Thistle-down 55 Misgovern 56 Set up 58 Alkie 59 Pedestrian
61 Continuum 64 Chasten 65 High-profile 66 Capture
67 Renaissance and Guildenstern 68 Letterhead 69 Largeesse
70 Mental
DOWN: 1 Chelsea Pensioner 2 Intelligent 3 Olympia
5 Courtesan 6 Oxhide 7 Assassinate 8 East End 9 Self-assured
10 Sleep 11 Ecclesiast 12 Announces 13 Conditional 14 Clue
16 Cradle 21 Christmas 23 Annuitant 25 Thickset 27 Ad nauseam
29 Titanic 32 Toyed 35 Billiards 36 Scarlet Pimpernel 38 Robin Hood 39 Minimum 40 Ancestor 41 D'Artagnan 42 Halon 47 A nig in a poke 48 Sleeping car 49 Long-sighted 50 Postal order
52 Sectaries 53 Thatch 54 Treatment 57 Truculent 60 Raphael
62 Innuendo 63 Figure 65 Heave 66 Crew

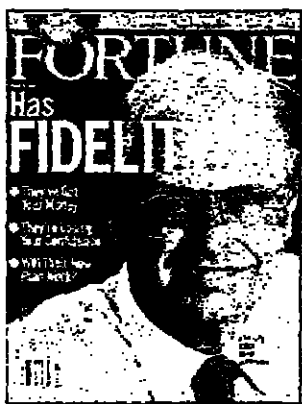
Fortune berates Fidelity for poor performance

By Paul Durman

FIDELITY, the world's largest fund management group, has come in for a withering attack from the latest edition of *Fortune*, the leading American business magazine.

In a cover story entitled "Has Fidelity lost it?" *Fortune* accuses the Boston firm of "extraordinary arrogance" and complacency in its low-key response to numerous difficulties, headed by bad investment performance and the loss of 23 US fund managers in 18 months.

The article accuses Fidelity, which recently suffered serious problems in its UK broking arm, of having allowed fund managers to trade heavily for their personal accounts. It even suggests that Fidelity's analysts felt under pressure to supply some fund managers with ideas for their personal accounts. Fidelity denies this. The group, which manages \$300 billion, last month replaced its head of investment



The front page of *Fortune*

management, with Bob Posen taking over from Gary Burkhead.

In a letter to staff, Fidelity calls the article "biased and inaccurate". Mostly, it restricts itself to saying that similar criticisms - that it has grown too large or that it has lost key fund managers - have often been made before.

"We're still here, bigger and better," writes Jim Curvey, chief operating officer.

After years when most of Fidelity's investment funds beat the market, the latest figures show 30 out of 34 funds underperforming over the three years to the end of 1996. *Fortune* lays much of the blame with Mr Burkhead, who "began removing whole asset classes and investment strategies from fund managers' tool boxes, often at exactly the wrong time".

The article says Fidelity can no longer focus on pure investment performance as more than half its money represents retirement savings. Leading clients prize consistency above glittering performance.

Fidelity is one of the biggest managers of unit trusts and Peps in the UK. This month, Fidelity Brokerage Services was fined £200,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority after a new computer system caused chaos for customers.

Axa in talks on Equity & Law

Axa, the French insurance group, has confirmed weekend reports of talks that could lead to a takeover of Axa Equity & Law, its life insurance subsidiary, by Sun Life and the latest of a series of mergers within the industry.

Sun Life is majority-owned by the French group, but was quoted on the London stock market last year. Axa is known to want to rationalise its two British insurance businesses and has been seeking buyers for Equity & Law, but without success.

Any deal would be made more difficult because of the shared ownership of the two companies, because the interests of the minority shareholders in Sun Life would have to be protected. But an Axa spokesman said: "It would be odd if Axa wasn't trying to resolve this one."

Black economy

The black economy is booming, and costing the Exchequer £20 billion every year, says an unpublished report by Deloitte & Touche, the accountants, for the European Commission. It estimates that the black economy is now worth 12 per cent of Britain's gross domestic product and is equivalent to an entire year's spending on social services.

Budget plea

The Government should cut public spending but resist increasing taxes, the Institute of Directors says in its formal Budget submission. It said there was no justification for higher taxes, but the "least worst" tax-raising option would be the phased abolition of mortgage interest relief.

Chelsea tackles congestion

By Fraser Nelson

CHELSEA VILLAGE, owner of Chelsea Football Club, is in advanced talks with National Express over building a new railway station beside Stamford Bridge, the club's stadium.

The company, which will open a 160-room hotel and four restaurants in the ground this winter, is expected to pay about £300,000 towards the station. Final details have yet to be arranged. Alan Shaw, company secretary, said: "We started discussions with British Rail three years ago. They changed to

Railtrack, then it was sold on to North London Railways, and now we're dealing with National Express. We've been very frustrated with the whole situation, although we're finally making progress now."

He said the club was aiming to complete the station in time for the new season next year. "We are told it would be a very easy job, and it has been suggested the whole thing would take between six and nine months. The signals are already in place - it's just a

matter of setting up the concrete," he said.

The club has built a 240-space car park to cope with match-day congestion, but is still unhappy with the stadium's accessibility. Sources close to Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, were refusing to confirm or deny a weekend report that he was considering buying Fulham Football Club, which is a few miles from the store and hard by its depository.

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In 1947, Thor Heyerdahl and his fearless crew sailed their frail KonTiki raft into the history books. 50 years later, Eterna salutes their exploit with an enduring achievement of its own, the Super KonTiki wristwatch. Built for adventure, the Super KonTiki can take just about anything.

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